

MAR 10 2023

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY  
AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DREDGE AND CLEAN THE ULEHAWA  
STREAM AND CANAL.

1           WHEREAS, dredging is the process of removing accumulated  
2 sediment from banks or the bottoms of bodies of water such as  
3 streams and is essential to the preservation of wildlife,  
4 ecosystems, and the health of a waterway; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the Ulehawa Stream, a perennial stream located on  
7 the western shore of Oahu and to the north of Nanakuli, is  
8 typically blocked by beach sand due to an absence of a fringing  
9 reef, which leaves the shoreline exposed to variable wave  
10 conditions from the north during winter and from the south  
11 during the summer; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the Ulehawa Stream runs along the border of Oahu's  
14 sole construction and demolition landfill, owned by PVT Land  
15 Company Ltd., which takes in approximately forty percent of the  
16 island's total waste stream as of 2020; and  
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18           WHEREAS, hundreds of residents live alongside the main  
19 Ulehawa Canal and its two wing canals that reach, on the west,  
20 through the Princess Kahanu Estates Association, a Department of  
21 Hawaiian Home Lands homestead community, and on the east, near  
22 the Puu Heleakala Community, a predominantly Native Hawaiian  
23 community; and  
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25           WHEREAS, complaints of the Ulehawa Canal being backed up  
26 with silt and sand have been made for over two decades, and in  
27 the past two years, the Ulehawa's wing canals have been  
28 completely blocked and littered with silt, vegetation, and  
29 trash, such as shopping carts, beds, and construction debris;  
30 and  
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1           WHEREAS, without regular dredging, the Ulehawa Stream and  
2 Canal remains stagnant -- even with heavy rainfall -- and its  
3 stench becomes unbearable; and  
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5           WHEREAS, reports have been made of residents living on both  
6 sides of the Ulehawa Canal becoming sick, which raises public  
7 health and safety concerns; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the 2008 *Hawaii Environmental Justice Initiative*  
10 *Report's* definition of "environmental justice" for Hawaii  
11 recognized that "no one segment of the population or geographic  
12 area should be disproportionately burdened with environmental  
13 and/or health impacts resulting from development, construction,  
14 operations and/or use of natural resources"; and  
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16           WHEREAS, tax-paying residents living along the Ulehawa  
17 Stream and Canal are being disproportionately burdened generally  
18 due to the lack of regular upkeep and dredging; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City  
21 and County of Honolulu (DFM) must obtain a permit from the Army  
22 Corps of Engineers prior to any dredging or maintenance work at  
23 the Ulehawa Stream and Canal, pursuant to section 404 of the  
24 Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, and section 10 of the  
25 Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended; and  
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27           WHEREAS, although the DFM estimates that stream maintenance  
28 work at Ulehawa Stream and Canal should occur at least  
29 quarterly, according to residents of the area, it appears that  
30 the DFM only performs its necessary work after receiving a large  
31 number of complaints; and  
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33           WHEREAS, the DFM has informed at least one council member  
34 of the Honolulu City Council that it does not have sufficient  
35 staff to continuously clean out the Ulehawa Stream and Canal but  
36 believes that a stream groin project at the mouth of the Ulehawa  
37 could potentially be a permanent solution to prevent the rapid  
38 accumulation of sediment and debris; now, therefore,  
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40           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
42 that the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and



1 County of Honolulu is requested to dredge and clean the Ulehawa  
2 Stream and Canal on a quarterly basis; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is  
5 requested to complete water quality testing of the Ulehawa  
6 Stream and Canal quarterly every two years, at a minimum; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Army Corps of Engineers is  
9 urged to work with the DFM to create a permanent solution to  
10 mitigate against the rapid accumulation of sediment and debris,  
11 to include but not be limited to the design and construction of  
12 a stream groin at the mouth of the Ulehawa Stream and Canal;  
13 provided that any permanent solution be in alignment with the  
14 Department of Transportation's plan to rehabilitate the Ulehawa  
15 Stream Bridge in 2025; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's congressional  
18 delegation is requested to make finding a permanent solution for  
19 the Ulehawa Stream and Canal a top priority and to assist the  
20 State and county in finding federal funding for this purpose;  
21 and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
24 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Army Corps of  
25 Engineers District Commander of the Honolulu District, members  
26 of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Director of  
27 Transportation, Director and Chief Engineer of the Department of  
28 Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu, and  
29 Manager and Chief Engineer of the Honolulu Board of Water  
30 Supply.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

