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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
REGULARLY CONSULT WITH HO'OLAULIMA IA KAWAI NUI TO  
COORDINATE EFFORTS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND MAINTAIN THE  
NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES OF KAWAI NUI MARSH.

1           WHEREAS, wetlands are lands or areas, such as tidal flats  
2 and swamps, that contain a lot of soil moisture and protect and  
3 maintain water quality in other near-shore habitats; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the protection provided by wetlands is  
6 particularly important for coral reefs occurring seaward of  
7 coastal wetlands because the wetlands shield the reefs from  
8 sediment, turbidity, and pulses of fresh water during periods of  
9 heavy rain; and  
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11           WHEREAS, Kawai Nui Marsh in Kailua, Oahu is Hawaii's  
12 largest remaining natural wetland and an ecological and cultural  
13 treasure; and  
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15           WHEREAS, Kawai Nui Marsh, which encompasses approximately  
16 eight hundred thirty acres of land, has been identified by the  
17 United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a primary habitat for  
18 endemic and endangered native Hawaiian birds such as the  
19 'alaeke'oke'o, 'alae 'ula, ae'o, and koloa maoli; and  
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21           WHEREAS, despite their significance to Hawaii's  
22 environment, wetlands such as Kawai Nui Marsh are increasingly  
23 threatened by urban sprawl as the wetlands are drained, dredged,  
24 and filled to provide land for residential and commercial  
25 development; and  
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27           WHEREAS, community efforts to protect Kawai Nui Marsh began  
28 in the 1970s, when the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle rallied to  
29 educate the community, Legislature, and government agencies



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1 about the natural and cultural values of Kawai Nui Marsh to  
2 prevent a shopping mall from being built there; and

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4 WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, community  
5 organizations have been instrumental in Kawai Nui Marsh's  
6 designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance by  
7 contributing to three consecutive master plans for the marsh and  
8 conducting numerous natural and cultural restoration programs,  
9 educational tours, and events; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, community organizations have also provided other  
12 cooperative efforts to benefit Kawai Nui Marsh, such as  
13 fundraising and conducting pollution control and prevention  
14 efforts; and

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16 WHEREAS, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui is a network of concerned  
17 community organizations, government agencies, and individuals  
18 cooperating to foster public awareness and understanding of the  
19 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh to  
20 ensure the long-term protection, restoration, and stewardship of  
21 Kawai Nui Marsh and the surrounding area; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, since 2003, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui has been  
24 actively advocating to unite county, state, and federal agencies  
25 to further the goal of consolidating the ownership of Kawai Nui  
26 Marsh under the State; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
29 currently responsible for the management and sustainability of  
30 this important public resource; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
33 should regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to  
34 coordinate efforts to protect, preserve, and maintain the  
35 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; now,  
36 therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
40 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
41 Land and Natural Resources is requested to regularly consult  
42 with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to coordinate efforts to protect,



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1 preserve, and maintain the natural, cultural, and scenic  
2 resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
5 Natural Resources is requested to meet with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai  
6 Nui on a quarterly basis to review and assess the progress of  
7 programs and goals relating to Kawai Nui Marsh; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board  
11 of Land and Natural Resources and Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui.

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OFFERED BY:

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