
HOUSE 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
30 about the natural and cultural values of Kawai Nui Marsh to
31 prevent a shopping mall from being built there; and
32



1 WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, community
2 organizations have been instrumental in Kawai Nui Marsh's
3 designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance by
4 contributing to three consecutive master plans for the marsh and
5 conducting numerous natural and cultural restoration programs,
6 educational tours, and events; and
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8 WHEREAS, community organizations have also provided other
9 cooperative efforts to benefit Kawai Nui Marsh, such as
10 fundraising and conducting pollution control and prevention
11 efforts; and
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13 WHEREAS, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui is a network of concerned
14 community organizations, government agencies, and individuals
15 cooperating to foster public awareness and understanding of the
16 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh to
17 ensure the long-term protection, restoration, and stewardship of
18 Kawai Nui Marsh and the surrounding area; and
19

20 WHEREAS, since 2003, Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui has been
21 actively advocating to unite county, state, and federal agencies
22 to further the goal of consolidating the ownership of Kawai Nui
23 Marsh under the State; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
26 currently responsible for the management and sustainability of
27 this important public resource; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
30 should regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui to
31 coordinate efforts to protect, preserve, and maintain the
32 natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai Nui Marsh; now,
33 therefore,
34

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
37 Session of 2008, that the Department of Land and Natural
38 Resources is requested to regularly consult with Ho'olaulima ia
39 Kawai Nui to coordinate efforts to protect, preserve, and
40 maintain the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawai
41 Nui Marsh; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 2 Natural Resources is requested to meet with Ho'olaulima ia Kawai
 3 Nui on a quarterly basis to review and assess the progress of
 4 programs and goals relating to Kawai Nui Marsh; and

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 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 7 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Land and
 8 Natural Resources and Ho'olaulima ia Kawai Nui.

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OFFERED BY:

R. C. [Signature]
J. Wil. Karamoto
Tony [Signature]
[Signature]

MAR 11 2008

