
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Legislature established a dedicated
2 source of state funding to buy interests in private land to
3 preserve and protect natural, cultural, and agricultural
4 resources, open spaces, and lands for the public benefit; and
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6 WHEREAS, the LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM, based in the
7 Department of Land and Natural Resources, has built a strong
8 base of private and public partners while conserving thirty-
9 seven properties to date, stretching from Waikapuna and Kahuku
10 along the Ka'ū coast to Black Pot Beach Park in Halele'a, Kaua'i,
11 and totaling about 21,600 acres across five islands; through
12 these efforts, the State of Hawaii continues to preserve and
13 protect agricultural, natural, and cultural resources throughout
14 Hawai'i Nei, creating a legacy of "Aloha 'Āina" for local
15 communities on all the islands; and
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17 WHEREAS, the LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM started in
18 2006 with a grant that secured a conservation easement to
19 protect 167 acres of prime agricultural land at Kainalu Ranch,
20 Molokai; today, the Ranch continues to produce food and conserve
21 rare and endangered plants while remaining under private, family
22 ownership; other agricultural ventures bolstered by program
23 support include two properties that MA'O Organic Farms purchased
24 in Lualualei Valley in Wai'anae, O'ahu, as well as conservation
25 easements that prevent land use conversion at the Hawaii
26 Agricultural Research Center in Kunia and on private farmland
27 above Turtle Bay; and
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29 WHEREAS, in December of 2019, the LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION
30 PROGRAM protected over 2,300 acres of land near Na'alehu, Hawai'i
31 Island, associated closely with the famed Hawaiian historian and
32 scholar, Mary Kawena Pukui; and



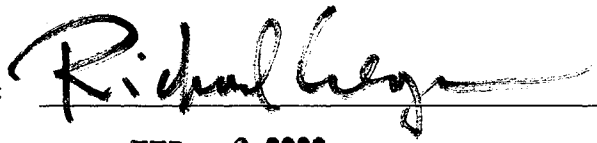
1 WHEREAS, over the years, one of the largest grants for
2 legacy land conservation went to a nonprofit that in 2015,
3 acquired land with immense cultural and historical resource
4 value at the Kuamo'o Battlefield and Burial Ground in Kona; the
5 Office of Hawaiian Affairs also provided substantial funding and
6 holds a conservation easement that adds an additional layer of
7 protection for this historical site; and
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9 WHEREAS, at the end of 2019, the State bought, from Dole
10 Food Company, the biggest tract of land that has ever changed
11 hands in a program-funded transaction, expanding the existing
12 Pūpūkea Forest Reserve in northern O'ahu to over five times its
13 original size, from 782 acres to 4,482 acres; and
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15 WHEREAS, when the Legislature established the Land
16 Conservation Fund and authorized the Department of Land and
17 Natural Resources to conduct the LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION
18 PROGRAM, it recognized "the value of Hawaii's natural resources
19 to its economy, culture, and quality of life" while cautioning
20 that only "an alarmingly small amount of money is invested each
21 year to protect our natural capital base"; and
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23 WHEREAS, as noted by the 2005 Legislature and as
24 demonstrated through the experiences of the LEGACY LAND
25 CONSERVATION PROGRAM, "the preservation, protection, and
26 enhancement of the State's land, coastal areas, and natural
27 resources are of central importance for current and future
28 residents and for the state economy"; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
32 2020, that this body recognizes the 15th Anniversary of the
33 LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM, and commends the Program for
34 helping to strengthen the connections between our communities,
35 places, and important resources and to maintain the integrity of
36 our unique landscape by preserving open spaces and scenic views.
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OFFERED BY: 

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