

Resolution

No. 25-105

SUPPORTING THE COUNTY'S INTENT TO ACQUIRE REAL PROPERTY IN KAUNAKAKAI, MOLOKAI, HAWAI'I AND TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MOLOKA'I HERITAGE TRUST FOR THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY USED BY THE COUNTY AND OTHER LANDS OF VITAL INTEREST TO MOLOKAI

WHEREAS, for decades, many members of the Molokai community have sought to place much of its 'āina in trust for the benefit of the Molokai community; and

WHEREAS, the County supports Moloka'i Heritage Trust, a nonprofit land trust corporation, in its efforts to restore community ownership of ancestral lands on Molokai; and

WHEREAS, the County and Moloka'i Heritage Trust share the vision that lands critical to the success of the Molokai people be owned by entities directly accountable to the Molokai people; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, the County has leased 5.411 acres in Kaunakakai to assist the County in critical operations and to promote residents' well-being; and

WHEREAS, since 2014, the lease has been subject to annual renegotiation, potentially making the County subject to untenable terms or at risk of losing this land that supplies essential services to the Molokai community; and

WHEREAS, the County will continue to work with Moloka'i Heritage Trust and coalition partners toward a memorandum of understanding to define the entities' relationships and the land-acquisition approach; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence for the County, Moloka'i Heritage Trust, and coalition partners to realize this unprecedented opportunity to acquire, protect, preserve, and enhance these lands that are critical to the Molokai community and the residents of Maui County; and

WHEREAS, regular status updates will be provided to the Council on this endeavor's progress; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it supports the County's intent to acquire real property in Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawai'i and to execute a memorandum of understanding with Moloka'i Heritage Trust for the acquisition of real property on Molokai;
2. That the Council finds the County's acquisition of real property to be in the public interest;
3. That the Council intends, subject to further legislative action, to appropriate at least \$30 million to acquire real property used by County facilities and other real property on Molokai of interest to the County and Molokai community; and
4. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Board of Directors, Moloka'i Heritage Trust; Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, County of Maui; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

/s/ Andrew Nelson
ANDREW NELSON
Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

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INTRODUCED BY:



KEANI N. W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ