

Resolution

No. 25-54

REQUESTING THE CONSERVATION PLANNING
COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON PARCELS
IDENTIFIED AS WETLANDS IN THE MAUI
COUNTY WETLANDS MAP

WHEREAS, under Section 19.47.020, Maui County Code, the County's policy is to protect and restore wetlands; and

WHEREAS, wetlands serve important functions, including minimizing runoff, flood protection, capturing sediment, erosion control, drought recovery, and endangered species habitat; and

WHEREAS, the majority of wetlands in Maui County have been degraded or lost to development; and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2024, by County Communication 97-24, the Planning Director transmitted to the Council the Maui County Wetlands Map, which shows the approximate location of wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Section 19.47.070(C), Maui County Code, authorizes the Planning Director or Council to initiate changes in zoning to ensure wetlands depicted in the map are placed in the Wetlands Overlay District; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.82.040(J)(1), Maui County Code, requires the Conservation Planning Committee to provide recommendations to the Mayor, Council, and agencies to guide decision making for acquiring lands or property interests for conservation and managing lands with open space, natural resources, cultural resources, and scenic views values; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.82.040(J)(2) allows the Conservation Planning Committee to advise the County to authorize acquisition of real property containing wetlands, either by negotiation under Chapter 3.44, Maui County Code, or by eminent domain, and to seek execution of conservation easements to restore or protect wetlands; and

Resolution No. 25-54

WHEREAS, Section 2.82.050, Maui County Code, required the Conservation Planning Committee to adopt and submit to the Council a greenprint, which is “a comprehensive conservation plan,” based on “public outreach, the general plan, and other community and documentary resources, including land conservation organizations” by December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, no greenprint has yet been adopted by the Conservation Planning Committee or submitted to the Council; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.82.060, Maui County Code, authorizes the Council to request that the Conservation Planning Committee provide recommendations on the acquisition of lands or property interests for conservation purposes within 120 days; and

WHEREAS, recommendations for conservation and protection of wetlands—which hold important cultural, historical, agricultural, natural, coastal, infrastructural, and scenic value—would advance the County’s goals stated in the Countywide Policy Plan, including:

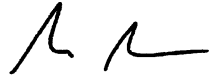
- “Maui County’s natural environment and distinctive open spaces will be preserved, managed, and cared for in perpetuity” (page 46);
- “Maui County will foster a spirit of pono and protect, perpetuate, and reinvigorate its residents’ multi-cultural values and traditions to ensure that current and future generations will enjoy the benefits of their rich island heritage” (page 49);
- “A full range of island-appropriate public facilities and recreational opportunities will be provided to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors” (page 64);
- “Community character, lifestyles, economies, and natural assets will be preserved by managing growth and using land in a sustainable manner” (page 74); now, therefore,

Resolution No. 25-54

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

1. That it requests the Conservation Planning Committee to review and provide recommendations on the parcels identified as wetlands in the Maui County Wetlands Map;
2. That it further requests the Conservation Planning Committee to transmit its recommendations for actions on the parcels identified as wetlands to the Council and Administration of the County of Maui within 120 days;
3. That it further requests the Conservation Planning Committee to consider recommendations for action, including appraisal, acquisition, management planning, conservation easements, change in zoning under the Wetlands Overlay District, and other actions it deems appropriate;
4. That it further requests the Conservation Planning Committee to prioritize its recommendations based on importance and feasibility; and
5. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Conservation Planning Committee; Joshua Cooper, Office of Innovation and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor; Shayne Agawa, Director of Environmental Management; Josiah Nishita, Managing Director; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen Jr., Mayor.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a cursive 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

GABE JOHNSON