



The Senate

**RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
HAWAII RESERVES, INC.
AS AN IMPORTANT PARTNER OF
KO'OLAU MOUNTAINS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
AND ITS TEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY**

The Legislature takes great pleasure in formally recognizing an organization in our community that has influenced many lives in a positive manner and that has made significant contributions to the well being of Hawaii's families and communities in the State of Hawaii. **KO'OLAU MOUNTAINS WATERSHED PARTNER, HAWAII RESERVES, INC.** is committed to protecting Hawaii's watershed and forest resources. We congratulate you as you celebrate your 10th Anniversary and for your collective vision, energy, and steadfast commitment to Hawaii's natural resources and future generations.

On the island of O'ahu, the 110,000-acre Ko'olau Mountain Range is a vital natural resource, a place where the winds, land, plants and water converge in a symphony of natural beauty and interdependency. Its forested slopes shelter more than 80 rare or endangered native species and its streams and underground aquifers supply Oahu's 880,000 residents with 133 billion gallons of fresh water each year. The **KO'OLAU MOUNTAINS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP** was formed in 1999 to protect these and other invaluable forest resources.

In 2000, the 4,534-acre O'ahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge, the first area within the Ko'olau Mountains formally protected for native species, was established by the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Although the Conservancy does not own or manage lands in the partnership area, as an associate partner, it has played an active role in providing administrative and operational support and technical expertise to help build the emerging partnership. In 2002, the partnership completed a comprehensive management plan that proposed strategies and actions to accomplish its goal of protecting the forested watershed areas within the Ko'olau Range. The following partner, **HAWAII RESERVES, INC.** has been an integral part of the **KO'OLAU MOUNTAINS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP** and has been committed to protect the rare and interdependent communities of plants and animals who live in this unique native ecosystem.

Primary threats to the Ko'olau watershed include invasive non-native plant species, feral ungulates and other non-native animals, human disturbances, aquatic pollutants and wildfire. The partnership conducts biological, cultural, and feral animal surveys, building fencing enclosures around high-priority summit and drainage areas, and developing a strategy to control the spread of priority invasive weed species and ungulate populations in the watershed.

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature hereby honors the commitment and dedicated efforts of **HAWAII RESERVES, INC.**, as a partner of the **KO'OLAU MOUNTAINS WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**, extends its warmest congratulations on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, and expresses much Aloha and best wishes for many more years of success.



The 25th Legislature
Certificate No. 1924

Done this 26th day of August, 2009
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Suzanne Chun Oakland

Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sponsoring Senator

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa, President of the Senate

Carol Taniguchi

Carol Taniguchi, Clerk of the Senate