



RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO CREATE A ONE-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM TO ALLOW THE USE OF TENTS AT HANAUMA BAY NATURE PRESERVE.

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve (Hanauma Bay) is a unique natural resource that is home to diverse marine life, including more than 400 species of tropical reef fish and other resident aquatic species; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay was established as the state's first Marine Life Conservation District in 1967 to recognize its precious live reef environment and is second only to Waikiki Beach as a tourist destination with approximately 1,000,000 people visiting annually; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay is not a typical beach park for beach sports but a nature preserve dedicated to conservation and visitor education in an enjoyable and leisurely format; and

WHEREAS, a \$1.00 parking fee is charged for all vehicles entering the preserve that stay longer than 15 minutes and a \$7.50 admission fee is charged for each non-Hawaii state resident; and

WHEREAS, since the institution of parking and admission fees for Hanauma Bay, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has observed that the overall number of Hawaii resident patrons have declined despite the admission fee being assessed only for non-residents, thereby making tourists the primary patron base of Hanauma Bay; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay's crescent shape and fringing reef makes conditions ideal for novice snorkelers and children, resulting in frequent usage of Hanauma Bay by families; and

WHEREAS, the only outdoor area that provides significant shade or protection from the elements is located on the upper level of the nature preserve and is not in close proximity to the beach where visitors spend most of their day; and

WHEREAS, because Hanauma Bay is closed to the public between the hours of 7:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m. from the Memorial Day weekend through the Labor Day weekend and 6:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m. throughout the remainder of the year and all day Tuesday, the use of tents at Hanauma Bay for shade or protection from the elements during posted operational hours would not constitute "camping" as defined in



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§10-1.1, ROH 1990 as amended, and should not require Hanauma Bay to be designated as a campground; and

WHEREAS, DPR is responsible for managing, maintaining and operating Hanauma Bay above the high tide line; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Department of Parks and Recreation is urged to create a one-year pilot program allowing the use of tents in Hanauma Bay for recreational shelter and protection from the elements during posted operational hours; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that at the conclusion of the one-year program, the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to report to the Council on the outcome of the program that includes at a minimum any rule changes or legislative action that may be needed based on the results; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director and the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Ann Kobayashi*  
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAY 15 2012  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers