

The resolution goals are clear:

“WHEREAS, because of its cultural significance, easily accessible shoreline, historic use as a park, importance as habitat for the Green Sea Turtle (honu), nesting use by the Hawksbill Turtle (honu‘ea)... as well as its general location in the region, ensuring this area is held in perpetuity as Open Space is critical for the surrounding community, area residents and the Native Hawaiian community, as well as to preserve endangered species habitat and pristine ocean water quality...”

THE TRUTH ABOUT RESOLUTION 169-07

1. SEA MOUNTAIN PROPERTY ONLY

The purchase only includes land owned by Sea Mountain Investments that may be sold to developers. It does not include property owned by any residents or other land owners at Punalu‘u.

2. PROTECTS PUBLIC ACCESS

The public park, boat ramp, tennis courts and golf course would remain open to the public and the park would be expanded. Once purchased by the County, improvements could be made to all facilities, including upgrading and adding new pavilions, restrooms and recreation areas for the public. If these areas are turned into a private resort in the future, access could be limited and over crowding would be an issue.

3. PROTECTS PONDS AND SPRINGS ALONG THE SHORE

The Resolution only calls for the purchase of the shoreline and 2,000 feet inland in order to protect the most fragile habitat and important sacred sites. This area includes one of the largest network of springs and ponds in the state that serve as a critical estuary for all life along the Ka‘u Coast. This area provides nourishment for all the fishing grounds at Punalu‘u and Ninole – an important food source for our community. The 2,000 foot setback is designed to protect this area from runoff and pollution from future development at Punalu‘u.

4. ALLOWS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AT PUNALU‘U

The Resolution DOES NOT limit development outside the area that is being purchased. Future sustainable development and job creation that honors and protects the cultural and natural resources at Punalu‘u can still be pursued and would be encouraged. By protecting the natural and cultural resources of Ka‘u we can create good paying jobs in resource and cultural management, hospitality and education.

5. LOCAL MANAGEMENT

The local community and ALL residents of Ka‘u would be the Managers of the proposed park, working in partnership with the county. While the resolution acknowledges that Ka‘u Preservation is working on a management plan, this plan would have to be approved by the community and all residents and a Community based organization would be formed to implement this management plan and guide the future of Punalu‘u. This organization would represent the entire Ka‘u community.