

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3176, to provide for the study of the deterioration that has taken place on Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge on the Island of Maui.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) has properly explained the legislation. I want to commend and thank our colleague, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), for bringing the deterioration of this refuge to the attention of the committee.

I think I and most members of the committee were very disappointed to learn the extent to which this refuge, the largest freshwater pond in the entire State of Hawaii, could have reached such a degraded condition.

I think this legislation will be important in turning that around, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3176.

I want to thank Chairman YOUNG, Ranking Member Mr. MILLER of the Resources Committee and Subcommittee Chairman SAXTON and Ranking Member Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of the Fisheries Subcommittee for their efforts to bring the bill to the floor today.

I introduced H.R. 3176 on October 28, 1999. The legislation requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine ways of restoring the natural wetlands conditions in Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. The study would include an examination of hydrology, manmade impacts on wetlands, species succession and imbalances in natural habitat in the refuge. The legislation authorizes \$250,000 to conduct the study. The study would be reported to Congress not later than one year after funds for the study are made available.

The Refuge is located on the island of Maui and is part of the Mai Nui National Wildlife Refuge Complex. It was established in 1992 and consists of 691 acres. The pond itself is the largest natural pond in Hawaii, and covers between 400 and 500 acres at its greatest extent during the wet season. The pond is home of two endangered native Hawaiian birds, the Hawaiian stilt and the Hawaiian coot. The pond also provides food and shelter for numerous migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Human activity over the years has significantly changed the nature of the pond. In the early 1900's the pond had a depth of between six and eight feet. Over the years grazing and agricultural use of the land above the pond increased the runoff of sedimentation. Between 1925 and 1930 the pond was used as a rubbish dump, further reducing the depth of the pond. In 1970 twenty-five acres of land north of the pond were converted to a commercial aquaculture operation. Dikes were built, water impounded and a well dug.

All these activities have had a deleterious effect on the natural habitat of the pond.

Now the pond has an average depth of only one foot. As the depth of the pond decreased

the pond increasingly lost the ability to carry off sediments. Sand carried into the pond from adjacent dunes that otherwise would have been flushed away now stays in the pond further reducing the depth.

The shallow depth of the pond permits it to dry up quickly. The natural trade winds of the area then cause great clouds of dust to arise. The dust blows into the homes, eyes and lungs of nearby residents. The dust causes burning eyes and residents worry that the cause may be that the dust contains fertilizer and chemical residue from agricultural runoff and unknown chemicals from materials deposited during the period the pond was used as a dump.

The introduction of non-native species has also changed the ecology of the pond. The spotted wing midge was first identified in Hawaii in 1945. The midge has found the pond to be an extremely attractive habitat. A study by Ducks Unlimited estimated that on any given day during the wet season there may be as many as 200 million adult and near-adult midges. During midge season the uninitiated visitor may think the refuge is on fire at dawn or dusk, with smoldering fires throwing up swirling clouds of smoke. But it is not smoke. It is clouds of midges swarming.

The midge swarms invade surrounding residences. The midges are small enough to go through screens and some residents have been reduced to keeping their lights out in a vain effort to keep the invaders away. Motorists report that their cars are covered with squashed midges when driving in the area.

Kealia Pond is also home to non-native tilapia. These fish make up 90 percent of the fish population of the pond. They do more damage than good for the wetlands. When the pond dries up there are massive fish die offs. In 1996 Maui correctional inmates, working under the direction of the pond's on-site manager, removed 14 tons of dead and rotting fish from the refuge.

There have been studies of aspects of the ecology of the pond done over the years, both in the public and private sector. However, the studies have frequently concentrated on one aspect of the problem or another. There has been no study directed at restoring Kealia Pond to its natural state.

H.R. 3176 requires a study to identify ways of dealing with these man-made plagues of dust, bugs and rotting fish. My constituents recognize the value of the pond and its contribution to preserving native Hawaiian endangered species. They want to see Kealia Pond restored to its natural state with its native fauna.

Passage of H.R. 3176 will get the answers needed to restore Kealia Pond.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3176.

The question was taken.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 6 p.m.

□ 1800

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OSE) at 6 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on the first four motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which those motions were entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order: House Resolution 509, by the yeas and nays; H.R. 4241, by the yeas and nays; H.R. 3030, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 3535, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

The remaining four votes will be postponed until tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 509, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 509, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 0, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 234]

YEAS—382

Abercrombie	Baca	Barcia
Ackerman	Bachus	Barr
Aderholt	Baird	Barrett (NE)
Allen	Baker	Barrett (WI)
Andrews	Baldacci	Bartlett
Archer	Baldwin	Barton
Arney	Ballenger	Bass