
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Ka'ena point state
2 park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions are significant for their
3 beauty, cultural and historical significance, and exceptional
4 value to the Hawaiian community. Historically, these areas were
5 primarily known for their lawai'a (fishing practices), as well as
6 other traditional Native Hawaiian practices such as lua (warrior
7 training) and la'au lapa'au (medicinal practices). These areas
8 are places of cultural enlightenment and healing and are rich in
9 mo'olelo (history) encompassing life from beginning to end.

10 In 2016, due to years of overuse and abuse from illegal
11 driving on the beach, unmanaged camping, harmful fishing and
12 gathering practices, and other recreational uses that created
13 unacceptable, potentially hazardous accumulations of dangerous
14 rubbish and human waste, areas of Ka'ena point state park, Mākua,
15 and Keawa'ula regions were closed to overnight access. The
16 intent was to reopen them with a proper management system in



1 place that encompasses Hawaiian management values in balancing
2 public use with the preservation of the ‘āina, wildlife, and
3 cultural resources. However, a proper management system has yet
4 to be implemented.

5 The legislature notes that prioritizing the State's natural
6 resources is an essential component of destination management.
7 Before 2020, annual arrivals to the State exceeded ten million
8 visitors, and according to state economists, by 2025, Hawaii
9 will again return to pre-pandemic tourism levels. Social media
10 has only perpetuated this growth. The legislature believes that
11 rising visitor numbers in Hawaii's state parks could be better
12 managed by implementing various types of management systems.

13 The legislature further finds that in 2018, massive
14 flooding on Kauai damaged surrounding bridges, beaches, and
15 roads, thereby forcing Hāena state park to close for fourteen
16 months. When the park reopened, the department of land and
17 natural resources worked with the local community to implement a
18 management system that balanced public use with Hawaiian
19 cultural values and the preservation of the ‘āina, wildlife, and
20 cultural resources. Furthermore, based on the success of the
21 Hāena state park model, House Bill No. 2446, Regular Session of



1 2022, was introduced to appropriate moneys for the department of
2 land and natural resources to replicate models such as the model
3 used at Hāena state park. That measure also appropriated
4 additional moneys from the state parks special fund for purposes
5 of state park management.

6 Recently implemented management plans and models have been
7 shown to improve and promote a more harmonious relationship
8 between public use and park maintenance and preservation. Ka'ena
9 point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions are in dire need
10 of such a model. Although some needs of each state park may be
11 similar, each park is unique and other needs may vary based on
12 location and useage.

13 The abuse and harmful activities have plagued the ahupua'a
14 of Mākua, Kahanahāiki, and Keawa'ula for more than a century.
15 The legislature finds that a proper management system for these
16 areas is long overdue and the implementation of a system to
17 improve public safety and environmental protection is necessary.

18 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
19 land and natural resources to develop and implement an improved
20 management system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and
21 Keawa'ula regions.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
2 resources shall develop and implement a management system to
3 allow for improved management, such as the system that has been
4 used and deemed successful at Hāena state park; provided that
5 the management system pursuant to this Act shall be unique and
6 tailored to the specific criteria and needs of Ka'ena point state
7 park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions.

8 (b) In the development and implementation of a management
9 system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions,
10 the department of land and natural resources shall:

11 (1) Collaborate collectively with community stakeholders
12 and cultural practitioners of the specific regions;

13 (2) Work with all parties that share use of and
14 jurisdiction over the encompassed land and marine
15 areas;

16 (3) Ensure the sustainability of the management system by
17 working with outside partners, such as local nonprofit
18 organizations, as has been done in other state parks
19 management systems; and



1 (4) Maintain the current limited access until proper
2 measures are employed to address and resolve these
3 issues.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.
5



Report Title:

DLNR; Ka'ena Point State Park, Mākua, Keawa'ula

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

