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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE PARKS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Makena state park is  
2 a unique community resource not only for south Maui but for the  
3 entire island. As with other state beach parks, the increase in  
4 tourism volume has resulted in an excess of visitor traffic to  
5 Makena state park, necessitating further investment in this  
6 iconic area.

7           The legislature also finds that because of the increase in  
8 visitors, amenities offered at the park are being stretched and  
9 park upkeep and maintenance are being tested. The legislature  
10 finds that when the same phenomenon created a strain at Haena  
11 and Waianapanapa state parks, a carrying capacity study was  
12 conducted and a tourism management plan was put into place. The  
13 plan allowed for the generation of additional revenue from the  
14 increased traffic and ensured that residents' public access to  
15 these important community assets would be preserved.

16           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
17 funds for the department of land and natural resources to



1 conduct a carrying capacity study, to be submitted before the  
2 legislature convenes for the regular session of 2024.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural  
4 resources shall conduct a carrying capacity study of Makena  
5 state park in the county of Maui. The study shall:

- 6 (1) Include an assessment of the carrying capacity of  
7 Makena state park, including an estimate of the number  
8 of persons and the amount of human activity that the  
9 park can sustain without degrading natural resources,  
10 cultural resources, or experiences by visitors and  
11 residents;
- 12 (2) Assess the effectiveness of existing use restrictions  
13 and management practices, including current park  
14 hours, entrance fees, and parking fees;
- 15 (3) Assess the potential effectiveness of:
- 16 (A) Mandatory or voluntary closures of high-traffic,  
17 naturally sensitive, or culturally sensitive  
18 areas of the park; and
- 19 (B) Other visitor use restrictions or management  
20 practices; and



1           (4) Propose long-term management options to reduce the  
2           impact of humans on the health and abundance of  
3           natural resources, cultural resources, and native  
4           species within the park.

5           (b) In conducting the study, the department of land and  
6           natural resources shall consult with the county of Maui,  
7           relevant community organizations, and other relevant entities.

8           (c) The department of land and natural resources shall  
9           submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
10          any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
11          twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
12          2024.

13          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14          revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
15          much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for  
16          the department of land and natural resources to conduct a  
17          carrying capacity study of Makena state park in the county of  
18          Maui.

19          The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
20          land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



**1** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

**2**



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Makena State Park; Carrying Capacity; Study; Report to  
Legislature; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct  
a study of the carrying capacity of Makena State Park in the  
County of Maui. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000.  
(HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

