

---

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALING PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND OTHER PERSONS INCARCERATED IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

1           WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe is a sacred island to the native  
2 Hawaiian people, as evidenced by ancient chants and  
3 archeological sites, and believed to have been inhabited for  
4 more than 1,000 years; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, subsequent to Kaho'olawe's transfer from the  
7 Republic of Hawai'i to the United States in 1898, cattle and  
8 sheep were introduced to the island, resulting in a negative  
9 environmental impacts such as soil erosion; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, in August 1910, the Territorial Board of  
12 Agriculture designated Kaho'olawe as a forest reserve and  
13 attempted to revegetate the island; however, realizing these  
14 attempts were futile in light of the proliferation of goats on  
15 the island, the Territorial Board redesignated the island,  
16 transferred it to the Commissioner of Public Lands, whereby it  
17 was leased to cattle ranchers; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, in 1941, the United States leased part of  
20 Kaho'olawe for military purposes, using the island as a testing  
21 and training range for military weapons, beginning five decades  
22 of military bombardment and control of the island; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, in 1981, Kaho'olawe was designated an Archeological  
25 District and listed on the National Register of Historic Places;  
26 and  
27

28           WHEREAS, in 1993, Title X of the Department of Defense and  
29 Appropriations Act conveyed Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters  
30 to the State, providing for "meaningful safe use of the island  
31 for appropriate cultural, historical, archeological, and  
32 educational purposes as determined by the State of Hawaii"; and  
33



1           WHEREAS, in 1993, Chapter 6K, Hawaii Revised Statutes  
2 (HRS), was enacted, creating the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve  
3 Commission (KIRC) and reserving its uses solely and exclusively  
4 for the:

- 5
- 6           (1) Preservation and practice of all rights customarily  
7           and traditionally exercised by native Hawaiians for  
8           cultural, spiritual, and subsistence purposes;  
9
- 10          (2) Preservation and protection of its archaeological,  
11          historical, and environmental resources;  
12
- 13          (3) Rehabilitation, revegetation, habitat restoration, and  
14          preservation; and  
15
- 16          (4) Education;

17  
18 and  
19

20           WHEREAS, section 6K-9, HRS, provides "that the State shall  
21 transfer management and control of the island and its waters to  
22 the sovereign native Hawaiian entity upon its recognition by the  
23 United States and the State of Hawaii"; and  
24

25           WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe has served as the foundation for the  
26 revitalization of native Hawaiian cultural practices; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, the Girls' Court Program, a gender-specific and  
29 strength-based program targeting female juvenile offenders, was  
30 granted the unique opportunity to volunteer on Kaho'olawe as part  
31 of the KIRC's program, where they lived together, shared, and  
32 restored the land by planting native species of vegetation,  
33 cleared trails and paths, and learned about the island's  
34 history; and  
35

36           WHEREAS, these young women benefited personally,  
37 spiritually, and educationally from this unique experience  
38 through learning about native Hawaiian culture and traditions,  
39 providing community service, and self-discovery about their  
40 young womanhood; and  
41

42           WHEREAS, a similar program for offenders targeted at  
43 healing and teaching native Hawaiian traditions and cultural



1 practices would greatly benefit these individuals who could also  
2 develop a cultural connection to Kaho'olawe by increasing their  
3 knowledge and providing a purpose for them and for future  
4 generations of Hawaii's people; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, according to Department of Public Safety (DPS)  
7 statistics published in 2005, approximately 44 percent of female  
8 offenders and 37 percent of male offenders are native Hawaiian;  
9 and  
10

11 WHEREAS, this program would house at least 40 offenders,  
12 preparing them to become stewards of the land, learn life skills  
13 with an emphasis on native Hawaiian cultural traditions, and  
14 become acquainted or reacquainted with their rich heritage so  
15 that in helping to heal Kaho'olawe, they would also help heal  
16 themselves; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, a volunteer program for such offenders would  
19 provide a unique opportunity for the many native Hawaiian  
20 offenders and others incarcerated in correctional facilities to  
21 return home to be paroled, put on probation, or put on work-  
22 release; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, volunteers in this program would have regular or  
25 instantaneous review immediately prior to and after their  
26 participation in this program in much that same way as the  
27 operation of Drug Court and Girls' Court; now, therefore,  
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
30 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
31 Session of 2007, that DPS is requested to convene a task force  
32 to study the feasibility of a reciprocal healing program for  
33 offenders on Kaho'olawe, emphasizing native Hawaiians practices  
34 for native Hawaiians and other offenders; and  
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of  
37 representatives from the following entities:  
38

- 39 (1) The Director of Public Safety or the Director's  
40 designee;
- 41
- 42 (2) The Director of Human Services or the Director's  
43 designee;



- 1
- 2 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office
- 3 of Hawaiian Affairs or the Chairperson's designee;
- 4
- 5 (4) The Executive Director of KIRC or the Executive
- 6 Director's designee; and
- 7
- 8 (5) The President of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana or the
- 9 President's designee;

10  
11 and

12  
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DPS is requested to submit a  
14 report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the  
15 convening of the Regular Session of 2008, on the establishment  
16 of the task force requested by this measure, including any  
17 recommendations of the task force and any financial impacts  
18 incurred by the task force; and

19  
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the  
22 Director of Human Resources, the Chair of the Office of Hawaiian  
23 Affairs, the Chair of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission,  
24 and the Chair of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

