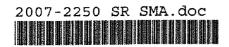# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
    FEASIBILITY OF A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALING PROGRAM ON
    KAHO'OLAWE.

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 one thousand 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 impact and causing 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 transferring it to the Commissioner of Public Lands, and it was
17 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, was
2 enacted, creating the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve and reserving its
3 uses solely and exclusively for the following purposes:

5   (1)   Preservation and practice of all rights customarily
6   and traditionally exercised by Native Hawaiians for
7   cultural, spiritual, and subsistence purposes;

9   (2)   Preservation and protection of its archaeological,
10   historical, and environmental resources;

12   (3)   Rehabilitation, revegetation, habitat restoration, and
13   preservation; and

15   (4)   Education; and

17   WHEREAS, section 6K-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides
18 "that the State shall transfer management and control of the
19 island and its waters to the sovereign native Hawaiian entity
20 upon its recognition by the United States and the State of
21 Hawaii"; and

23   WHEREAS, Kahoʻolawe has served as the foundation for the
24 revitalization of Native Hawaiian cultural practices; and

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

33   WHEREAS, these young women benefited personally,
34 spiritually, and educationally from this unique experience
35 through learning about their culture, providing community
36 service, and self-discovery about their young womanhood; and

38   WHEREAS, a similar program for offenders targeted at
39 healing and teaching Native Hawaiian traditions and cultural
40 practices would greatly benefit these individuals who could also
41 develop a cultural connection to Kahoʻolawe by increasing their
42 knowledge and providing a purpose for them and for future
43 generations of Hawaii's people; and

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WHEREAS, according to Department of Public Safety
statistics published in 2005, approximately forty-four per cent
of female offenders and thirty-seven per cent of male offenders
are Native Hawaiian; and

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

WHEREAS, a volunteer program for such offenders on
Kaho'olawe would temporarily address well-known overcrowding
issues in Hawaii's correctional facilities and provide an
opportunity for the many Native Hawaiian offenders in mainland
correctional facilities to return home; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
that the Department of Public Safety convene a task force to
study the feasibility of a reciprocal healing program for
offenders on Kaho'olawe, emphasizing Native Hawaiian practices
for Native Hawaiian offenders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be comprised of
the following entities:

(1)   The Department of Public Safety;

(2)   The Department of Human Services;

(3)   The Office of Hawaiian Affairs;

(4)   The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission; and

(5)   The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Department of Public Safety is
requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the
establishment of the task force requested by this measure,
including but not limited to any recommendations of the task

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1 force no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
2 Regular Session of 2008; and
3
4   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the
6 Director of Human Resources, the Chair of the Office of Hawaiian
7 Affairs, the Chair of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission,
8 and the Chair of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.
9
10
11

        OFFERED BY: _____