SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP OF STAKEHOLDERS TO CONDUCT A STUDY AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A PERMANENT PORT AND DOCK FACILITY FOR THE VOYAGING CANOES HOKULE'A, MAKALI'I, HOKUALAKA'I, NANAHOE, AND MO'OKIHA AND TO RECOMMEND A LOCATION FOR SUCH A FACILITY.

WHEREAS, section 200-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, gives the Department of Land and Natural Resources the responsibility to administer the ocean recreation and coastal area programs; and

WHEREAS, voyaging canoes, which are designed, built, and operated in the traditional manner of Pacific Islanders, play an important role in preserving, perpetuating, and practicing traditional Hawaiian culture; and

WHEREAS, because voyaging canoes are used as a platform for education and language preservation and revitalization, they are dynamic models of Hawaiian culture at work; and

WHEREAS, the primary mission of private, nonprofit organizations or public educational institutions that own and operate voyaging canoes is to perpetuate the oceanic voyaging traditions, culture, and history of the indigenous peoples of the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit organizations and the public educational institutions that promote the traditions of the Hawaiian culture with the voyaging canoes do not have a permanent place to dock their voyaging canoes and are charged mooring fees by the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Boating and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, a study should be conducted as to whether it would be feasible to provide a permanent port and dock facility for the voyaging canoes and to make a recommendation for the location of a permanent port and dock facility; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to work with the Department of Transportation to establish a working group of stakeholders to conduct a study of the feasibility of providing a permanent port and dock facility for the voyaging canoes Hokule'a, Makali'i, Hokualaka'i, Nanahoe, and Mo'okiha and to recommend a location for a permanent port and dock facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group of stakeholders include representatives of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation is requested to report to the Legislature, including any relevant proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Transportation, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society.