HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT THE 'AHA MOKU COUNCILS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE 'AHA KIOLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO ADVISE THE STATE ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.

WHEREAS, Act 212, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, as amended by Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, established the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee to initiate the process of creating a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledge the natural contours of the land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of cultural and traditional practitioners, kupuna, farmers, fishers, educators, policy makers, and other knowledgeable community members from dozens of moku throughout the State have since joined together to discuss best practices in the area of Hawaiian resource management; and

WHEREAS, in December 2010, the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee issued its final report to the Legislature, in which it recommends that the Legislature reestablish the 'aha moku system, which is derived from Hawaii's traditional land division system and includes the creation of an 'Aha Moku Council to represent each moku; and

WHEREAS, according to the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee, each 'Aha Moku Council would be a part of the municipality in which it occurs and would consult with its respective county on traditional natural resource and land management issues pursuant to county jurisdictions and municipal authority; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to implement the 'Aha Moku Councils, as recommended by

the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee, to advise the State on Hawaiian resource management practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that although the Department of Land and Natural Resources should not be responsible for the organization or oversight of any 'Aha Moku Council, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to develop a process to acknowledge and recognize the established 'Aha Moku Council from each moku as they approach the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor of each county, the Chairperson of the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, and the Chairperson of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs of the House of Representatives.

OFFERED BY:

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