H.C.R. NO. 162

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A KEIKI, 'OPIO, AND KUPUNA TRUST FUND AS A MEANS TO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE STRONG FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS WHILE SUPPORTING CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION OF HAWAII'S NATIVE TREES, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND ENERGY PRODUCTION, AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT AND BENEFIT KEIKI, 'OPIO, AND KUPUNA, AND TO ESTABLISH AN ECO-TOURISM PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS VISITORS AND RESIDENTS OF HAWAII TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD PLANTING NATIVE OR FOOD-BEARING TREES IN DESIGNATED AREAS.

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the importance of conserving and reforesting Hawaii's native trees on public forest lands; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature further recognizes the importance of developing long-term supports and services, including financing options, that will stave off impoverishment caused by costly health and nursing home care for the elderly; and

WHEREAS, a permanent source of dedicated funding is needed for programs that allow keiki to grow up safe, healthy, and ready to succeed; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources currently has the administrative ability to accept funding, including federal funds, state funds, and contributions from other parties, to support forest management; and

WHEREAS, a trust fund could serve as a repository for funds accepted by the Department and be utilized to purchase and plant native or food-bearing trees that are an investment and legacy for the State and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's residents should be encouraged to make financial investments through programs that support and benefit

keiki, 'opio, and kupuna, while simultaneously supporting conservation, reforestation of Hawaii's native trees, environmental stewardship, and sustainable food and energy production; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to:

(1) Study the feasibility of establishing a keiki, 'opio, and kupuna trust fund as a means to encourage individuals to make strong financial investments while supporting conservation, reforestation of Hawaii's native trees, environmental stewardship, sustainable food and energy production, and programs that support and benefit Hawaii's keiki, 'opio, and kupuna; and

(2) Establish an eco-tourism program that allows visitors and residents of Hawaii to contribute toward planting native or food-bearing trees in designated areas throughout the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to submit its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY:

MAR U 7 2014