HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF ERECTING AHUPUA'A BOUNDARY MARKER SIGNAGE ON ALL ISLANDS OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, according to historians, the concept of the ahupua'a was introduced by Hawaiian Chief Mā'ilikūkahi of Oahu in the thirteenth century for the purposes of resource management and sustainability, especially during times of drought and hardship; and

WHEREAS, the original Koʻolaupoko Ahupuaʻa Boundary Marker Project initiative began on the Windward side of Oahu as a collaborative effort to raise awareness about the cultural connection between people and their environment, helping residents of the island to understand which ahupuaʻa they live in; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has adopted standardized signs because of the Koʻolaupoko Ahupuaʻa Boundary Marker Project initiative and facilitated installation of these signs at several sites on Oahu; and

WHEREAS, ahupua'a are an important part of Hawaii's history and culture, and on all of the islands of Hawaii, residents and visitors to the islands alike can benefit from cultural awareness brought forth from the placement of ahupua'a markers and their promotion of environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, recognizing and restoring widespread use of the place names of Hawaii's ahupua'a allows the people of Hawaii an opportunity to reflect upon and perpetuate the traditional Hawaiian practices of sustainability and stewardship of land and ocean resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Transportation is requested to convene a task force to organize a statewide labeling of all ahupua'a, helping government agencies ensure the health and well-being of every community through community involvement and care of natural resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of the following:

(1) The Director of Transportation or the Director's designee;

(2) One member representing the Hawaii Tourism Authority;

(3) One member representing the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;

(4) One member representing Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law;

(5) One member representing the Koʻolaupoko Hawaii Civic Club;

(6) One member representing the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs:

(7) One member representing Kamehameha Schools;

(8) One member representing Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawaii; and

(9) One member representing the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ahupua'a markers task force is requested to determine the best approach to erecting ahupua'a marker signage where appropriate on all major streets and highways on all islands of Hawaii, with particular focus on the neighbor islands; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ahupua'a markers task force submit a report containing its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, if any, to accomplish the goals set forth in this measure to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2017 Regular Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, the Director of Transportation, the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Director of Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law, the President of the Koʻolaupoko Hawaii Civic Club, the Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools, the Dean of Hawaiʻinuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge at the University of Hawaii, and the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau.

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