

MAR 06 2020

---

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION WITH TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING, OR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN HELPING THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA TO RECOVER FROM THE DEVASTATING FIRE THAT BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 22, 2020.

1           WHEREAS, on February 22, 2020, a large brush fire ignited  
2 on the western end of the island of Kaho'olawe; and  
3

4           WHEREAS, the fire blazed for days, with Maui firefighting  
5 crews unable to actively combat the fire because of the danger  
6 of unexploded ordnance still present on Kaho'olawe, including  
7 rifle bullets and other munition from the over fifty years the  
8 United States Navy used Kaho'olawe for bombing practice; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, since the United States Navy conveyed deed of  
11 ownership of Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawaii in 1994, about  
12 sixty-five percent of the island has been cleared of surface  
13 unexploded ordnance, while ten percent has been cleared to a  
14 depth of four feet; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, the remaining twenty-five percent of the island,  
17 or 6,690 acres, is uncleared; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, during the first days of the fire, the fire swept  
20 past Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's base camp located on  
21 the western end of the island; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, the terrain on the western end of Kaho'olawe,  
24 consisting of invasive non-native grasses and shrublands, made  
25 the highly fire-susceptible, non-native grasses contributing  
26 factors to the extent and intensity of the Kahoolawe fire; and  
27

28           WHEREAS, though Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's  
29 Honokanai'a base camp was initially spared from severe fire



1 damage, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's upland field  
2 storage area suffered complete loss of several storage  
3 structures, including equipment, supplies, and materials that  
4 were stored in the buildings; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, the loss of several motor vehicles, construction  
7 equipment, and all-terrain vehicles are especially worrisome  
8 since those things are essential to maintain the island  
9 infrastructure and carry out Kaho'olawe Island Reserve  
10 Commission's restoration efforts; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, despite tradewinds that made extinguishing the  
13 fire more difficult, after six days, heavy rains on Kaho'olawe  
14 began to douse and put out the fire; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, all told, the Kaho'olawe fire burned about nine  
17 thousand acres, or about one-third of the island of Kahoolawe;  
18 and  
19

20 WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission now begins the  
21 long road to recovery and restoring its ability to conduct  
22 effective and long-term ecological restoration efforts on  
23 Kaho'olawe; now, therefore,  
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
26 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that all state  
27 departments and agencies are urged to cooperate and assist  
28 Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission with technical, engineering,  
29 or logistical support in helping the island of Kaho'olawe to  
30 recover from the devastating fire of February 22, 2020; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Executive Director  
34 of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.  
35  
36  
37

OFFERED BY:

Breene Saint





*Ed. Parier*

Resolving of Book

*Francis R. Brown*

~~DC~~ Embargo

*DKR*

*Clarence Nishihara*

*Jose Mercado Kim*

*Yue dlan J.*

