
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHERIFF DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND HARBORS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN THIS TIME OF NEED.

1 WHEREAS, the Division of Conservation and Resources
2 Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
3 responsible for enforcement activities of the Department,
4 including enforcement of all state laws and rules involving
5 state lands, state parks, historic sites, forest reserves,
6 aquatic life, wildlife areas, coastal zones, conservation
7 districts, and state shores, as well as county ordinances
8 involving county parks; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the mission of the Division of Conservation and
11 Resources Enforcement is to uphold the laws that serve to
12 protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited
13 natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust
14 for current and future generations of residents of, and visitors
15 to, Hawaii nei; and
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17 WHEREAS, although the Division of Conservation and
18 Resources Enforcement's jurisdiction covers state-owned lands
19 from the mountains to three miles offshore, the Division only
20 employs about one hundred officers statewide; and
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22 WHEREAS, the State's natural resources are sacred and must
23 be protected in a manner that will allow them to be preserved
24 for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come; and



1 WHEREAS, as a focal industry for the State, tourism is
2 largely dependent on the availability and sustainability of the
3 State's natural resources; and
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5 WHEREAS, many of the lands managed by the Department of
6 Land and Natural Resources are closed to the public as a result
7 of illegal dumping, pallet burning, illegal camping, vandalism,
8 and other acts that violate state laws and rules; and
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10 WHEREAS, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, news
11 releases have been issued regarding various abuses of the
12 State's natural resources, including illegal gatherings at Ka'ena
13 Point State Park on Oahu, with reports of illegal drinking,
14 littering, beach bonfires, burning of rubber tires, and illegal
15 campers at the Makua-Keawa'ula and Mokule'ia sections of the
16 park; the lighting of Christmas tree bonfires at Ahu O Laka; an
17 unauthorized excavation at Polihale on Kauai, where extensive
18 subsurface cultural resources, including burials, are located;
19 and vandals cutting through fencing erected at Makena State Park
20 on Maui to keep people away from Pu'u Ola'i because of large
21 beach parties that were being held during the pandemic; and
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23 WHEREAS, at Pokai Bay, boats illegally harbored close to
24 shore have dumped their sewage into the water and previously
25 ignored requests to vacate, while offshore of Kawaihae in Hawaii
26 County, aquarium fish were illegally harvested; and
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28 WHEREAS, these areas all fall under the jurisdiction of the
29 Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, but because
30 the Division is understaffed, there is a lack of enforcement
31 presence; and
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33 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
34 closed certain access points to Keawa'ula and Ka'ena Point State
35 Park; now, therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that this body urges other state
40 law enforcement entities, including the Department of the
41 Attorney General, Sheriff Division of the Department of Public
42 Safety, and Harbors Division of the Department of



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1 Transportation, to collaborate with the Division of Conservation
2 and Resources Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural
3 Resources to support its mission in this time of need; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
7 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Attorney
8 General, Director of Public Safety, and Director of
9 Transportation.

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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 12 2021

