
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR POLIHALE STATE
PARK ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI.

1 WHEREAS, Polihale State Park, located on the west to
2 northwest end of Kauai, possesses a large expanse of sand and
3 shoreline against a background of sand dunes that, together with
4 other areas of the park, are known to contain the remains of
5 native Hawaiian burials; and
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7 WHEREAS, beach goers and park users reportedly drive their
8 motor vehicles and recreational vehicles on the sand and among
9 the dunes for camping, boating, fishing, and other recreational
10 purposes; and
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12 WHEREAS, overuse and abuse of the beach and camping area,
13 as well as COVID-19 public health concerns, led the Department
14 of Land and Natural Resources to shut down public access to the
15 park in the summer of 2020; and
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17 WHEREAS, some users of Polihale State Park have a history
18 of noncompliance with Hawaii Administrative Rules for the Hawaii
19 State Park System, including driving on the beach; and
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21 WHEREAS, community discussions about the future management
22 of the park have included discussions about a stewardship
23 agreement to cover issues such as capital improvement projects
24 to protect the dunes and entry road from damage, facilitating
25 access to the park, improving parking conditions, and properly
26 maintaining camping areas; and
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28 WHEREAS, the State Parks Division has initiated discussions
29 with groups interested in creating a stewardship agreement with



1 the Division to help the Division manage resources and educate
2 the public regarding Polihale State Park; and
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4 WHEREAS, these discussions have also included ways to
5 mitigate the concerns raised by the lineal and cultural
6 descendant families who have burial sites in the area; now,
7 therefore,
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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
11 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and
12 Natural Resources is requested to establish a community advisory
13 committee to engage in a community-based planning effort to
14 address the various issues identified in this measure, including
15 resource protection, capacity, access, fishing, surfing, and
16 vehicle use for Polihale State Park on Kauai, and to achieve
17 compliance with the Department of Land and Natural Resources'
18 rules; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
21 Natural Resources is requested to invite the following persons
22 to serve on the community advisory committee:
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- 24 (1) An official from the Office of the Governor;
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- 26 (2) Members of the Legislature;
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- 28 (3) Staff from its own department, including law
29 enforcement officers;
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- 31 (4) An official from the Office of the Mayor of the County
32 of Kauai and staff from the County of Kauai; and
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- 34 (5) Stakeholders representing cultural and subsistence
35 users and recreational users, including lineal and
36 cultural descendants, fishers, and recreational and
37 commercial boaters; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
40 Natural Resources is requested to share its findings with area
41 legislators in the interest of developing potential enabling



1 legislation to implement any actions identified by the community
2 advisory committee; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
6 the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Mayor of the County
7 of Kauai.

