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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
SUBMIT A PETITION TO LIST THE OAHU PUEO AS A THREATENED OR  
ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian short-eared owl, *Asio flammeus*  
2 *sandwichensis*, commonly known as the pueo, is an endemic  
3 subspecies of the short-eared owl; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the pueo is believed to have become established in  
6 the Hawaiian Islands after the arrival of the first Polynesians  
7 and is now endemic to all major islands of Hawaii except Ni‘ihau;  
8 and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the pueo was revered by Hawaiians, and was an  
11 aumakua or ancestral guardian of many Hawaiian families, and an  
12 encounter with the pueo was considered to be an omen; and  
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14           WHEREAS, in Hawaiian mythology, the pueo is the "bird of  
15 wisdom," known for offering guidance and protection; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, pueo once flew in great numbers  
18 on O‘ahu, but today, according to The Pueo Project, a study by  
19 the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the  
20 University of Hawaii at Manoa and the Department of Natural  
21 Resources and Environmental Management of the Department of Land  
22 and Natural Resources, the number of pueo on Oahu has declined  
23 to an estimated eight hundred seven individual birds; and  
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25           WHEREAS, pueo nest on the ground, in grassy areas, laying  
26 three to six eggs over a few months; and  
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# H.C.R. NO. 69

1 WHEREAS, pueo eggs and young pueo are vulnerable to feral  
2 cats, dogs, rats, and mongooses; and

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4 WHEREAS, in addition to being vulnerable to many predators,  
5 loss of habitat has contributed to the reduction in the pueo  
6 population; and

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8 WHEREAS, Chapter 13-124, Exhibit 2, Hawaii Administrative  
9 Rules, lists the pueo on Oahu as endangered; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, protections for the pueo under state law and  
12 administrative rule are limited to prohibiting persons from  
13 exporting, possessing, processing, selling, offering for sale,  
14 delivering, carrying, transporting, or shipping, harassing,  
15 harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing,  
16 trapping, capturing, or collecting pueo and removing, damaging,  
17 or disturbing the nests of pueo; and

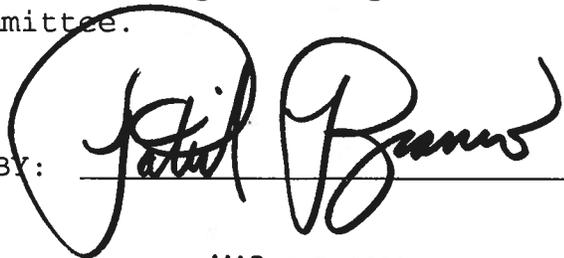
18  
19 WHEREAS, without federal protection, the Oahu pueo will be  
20 at risk of extinction; and

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22 WHEREAS, protections provided under the Endangered Species  
23 Act can help the pueo population increase to a healthy and  
24 sustainable level; now, therefore,

25  
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session  
28 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
29 Natural Resources is requested to petition the United States  
30 Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and  
31 Wildlife Service, to protect the Oahu pueo, also known as the  
32 Hawaiian short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) as a  
33 threatened or endangered species; and

34  
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board  
37 of Land and Natural Resources and the Program Manager of the  
38 Endangered Species Recovery Committee.

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41 OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 05 2021

