

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOUTH POINT ACCESS
ROAD FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

1 WHEREAS, South Point, Ka Lae, serves as a special wahi pana
2 of cultural and spiritual significance for the people of Ka'ū and
3 Hawai'i Island that warrant its protection due to its iwi kūpuna,
4 sacred sites, unique natural resources, and endangered species;
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS, seven hundred ten acres of Ka Lae are designated
8 as a national historic landmark because it provides "the longest
9 and most complete record of human occupation in the Hawaiian
10 islands"; and
11

12 WHEREAS, unregulated access at Ka Lae has compromised the
13 integrity of its heritage sites and of coastal ecosystems,
14 resulting in miles of deep, wide, and extremely severe erosion
15 scars, ranging from several feet to over eight feet in depth;
16 and
17

18 WHEREAS, Ka Lae has been accessed freely by the public as a
19 place of recreation despite the trespassing signage erected in
20 the area; and
21

22 WHEREAS, heavy use of recreational trucks, all-terrain
23 vehicles, and motor bikes coupled with the site's exposure to
24 the prevailing winds have caused sedimentation from soil
25 erosion, thus desecrating sacred sites, such as Palahemo and Pu'u
26 Ali'i, and has left the natural and cultural resources of Ka Lae
27 in critical condition; and
28

29 WHEREAS, there is a six-meter-wide asphalt single lane road
30 surface corridor of Ka Lae that runs between the former Morse
31 Field Barracks that is heavily used by individuals coming to
32 hike or drive to Māhana Bay; and
33



S.R. NO. 191

1 WHEREAS, many Ka'ū residents are frustrated with the lack of
2 progress for the management of Ka Lae resources, and the
3 disregard for the preservation of natural and cultural sites of
4 Ka Lae so that the remaining unique ecosystems of the area can
5 be preserved for future generations; now, therefore,
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
9 that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is requested to
10 provide recommendations for proposed legislation for the
11 maintenance of the unpaved corridor between the end of the South
12 Point Access Road and the boat ramp at Kaulana Bay and Māhana
13 Bay to the Southernmost Point in the United States; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations are
16 requested to focus on protecting the natural and cultural
17 resources along the coast and increasing public health and
18 safety through the provision of a defined access road along the
19 coast, as well as improving the access road for emergency
20 service vehicles; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
23 Lands is requested to submit a joint report of their findings
24 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
25 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
26 the Regular Session of 2022; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
30 Homes Commission.
31
32
33

OFFERED BY: _____

