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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO  
SUBMIT A PETITION TO LIST THE 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  
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5           WHEREAS, the pueo was established in the Hawaiian Islands  
6 after the arrival of the first Polynesians and is now endemic to  
7 all major islands of Hawaii except Ni'ihau; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the pueo is revered by Hawaiians as an 'aumakua  
10 (ancestral guardian) of many Hawaiian families, and an encounter  
11 with the pueo was considered to be an omen; and  
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13           WHEREAS, in Hawaiian mythology, the pueo is the "bird of  
14 wisdom," known for offering guidance and protection; and  
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16           WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, pueo once flew in great numbers  
17 on Oahu; and  
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19           WHEREAS, according to The Pueo Project, a study by the  
20 Department of Natural Resources and the College of Tropical  
21 Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii at  
22 Manoa, currently, the number of pueo on Oahu has declined to an  
23 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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28           WHEREAS, pueo eggs and young pueo are vulnerable to feral  
29 cats, dogs, rats, and mongooses; and  
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1 WHEREAS, in addition to being vulnerable to many predators,  
2 loss of habitat has contributed to the reduction in the pueo  
3 population; and

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5 WHEREAS, chapter 13-124, Hawaii Administrative Rules, lists  
6 the pueo on Oahu as endangered; and

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

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16 WHEREAS, without federal protection, the pueo will be at  
17 risk of extinction; and

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19 WHEREAS, protections provided under the Endangered Species  
20 Act can help the pueo population increase to a healthy and  
21 sustainable level; now, therefore,

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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session  
25 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
26 Natural Resources is requested to petition the United States  
27 Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and  
28 Wildlife Service, to petition for the pueo to be listed as a  
29 threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species  
30 Act; and

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

