MAR 1 0 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE CREATION OF AN ENFORCEMENT DIVISION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS.

WHEREAS, the land trust managed by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands consists of over two hundred thousand acres across the State; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has an enforcement section whose role is to investigate complaints from the public and other government agencies dealing with trespassing and other misuses of Hawaiian home lands, initiate actions to evict trespassers, and curtail illegal activities on Hawaiian home lands; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement section does not have police powers but instead relies on county police or the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement for policing Hawaiian home lands; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2021, the enforcement section and Honolulu Police Department investigated an illegal game room on Hawaiian home lands, and there are reports of other such illegal game rooms in operation; and

WHEREAS, without police powers, the enforcement section does not currently have the authority to even prevent trespassers from traversing through sensitive Department of Hawaiian Home Lands managed lands; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that the Hawaiian Homes Commission is requested to conduct a feasibility study for the creation of an enforcement division with police powers within the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, similar to that of the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement within the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaiian Homes Commission is requested to submit a copy of the feasibility study, including any necessary proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission.

OFFERED BY:

