
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
IDENTIFY ALL STATE AND COUNTY ROADS, LANDMARKS, MONUMENTS,
AND PUBLIC PARKS THAT USE THE NAME "DIAMOND HEAD" AND
IDENTIFY THE PROCESS FOR RENAMING THESE ROADS, LANDMARKS,
MONUMENTS, AND PUBLIC PARKS FROM "DIAMOND HEAD" TO "LĒ'AHĪ".

1 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi, or Diamond Head, is the most identifiable
2 landmark in Hawai'i; and

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4 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi was formed more than one hundred thousand
5 years ago by violent steam explosions that contributed to the
6 construction of the Hawaiian Islands; and

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8 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi has been known by many names over the years;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, the earliest recorded reference to Lē'ahi was Lae-
12 ahi, as the mountain was compared by Hi'iaka, the younger sister
13 of Pele, to the brow of the ahi fish; and

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15 WHEREAS, the name was later condensed to Lē'ahi; and

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17 WHEREAS, in the early 1800s, British sailors found calcite
18 crystals in the rocks on the slopes of Lē'ahi and thought they
19 were diamonds; and

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21 WHEREAS, following the discovery Lē'ahi crater was also
22 referred to as Kaimana-Hila, or "Diamond Hill"; and

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24 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi crater has been used as a strategic military
25 lookout beginning in the 1900s and was named a National Natural
26 Landmark in 1968; and



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1 WHEREAS, today, the Lē'ahi trail is enjoyed by hundreds of
2 thousands of visitors each year; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's mission is to
5 "strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner
6 consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of
7 natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry
8 needs"; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's most recent
11 strategic plan establishes a goal to support Native Hawaiian
12 culture and the community "through genuine experiences for both
13 visitors and residents"; and

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15 WHEREAS, as a strategic choice to achieve this goal, the
16 Hawai'i Tourism Authority ensures an increased emphasis to the
17 Hawaiian language by preserving language resources past and
18 present and encouraging appropriate use of the language; and

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20 WHEREAS, due to the rich cultural history surrounding Lē'ahi
21 and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's commitment to encourage the
22 appropriate use of the Hawaiian language, it is only appropriate
23 to properly reference the landmark by its Hawaiian name; now,
24 therefore,

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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
29 Land and Natural Resources is requested to identify all state
30 and county roads, landmarks, monuments, and public parks that
31 use the name "Diamond Head" and identify the process for
32 renaming these roads, landmarks, monuments, and public parks
33 from "Diamond Head" to "Lē'ahi"; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
36 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
37 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
38 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
39 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

