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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING AUGUST 8, 2023, AS HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS  
CELEBRATION DAY.

1           WHEREAS, Hawai'i is experiencing a bird extinction crisis,  
2 with ninety-five of its one hundred forty-two endemic manu  
3 (bird) species having become extinct and the remaining forty-  
4 seven species facing critical threats; and

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6           WHEREAS, of the more than fifty species of honeycreepers  
7 endemic to Hawai'i, only seventeen species remain, and twelve of  
8 those are designated--by the federal or state government--as  
9 critically endangered or threatened; and

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11           WHEREAS, the threats to the remaining manu species,  
12 particularly honeycreepers, include loss of their feeding and  
13 nesting habitat; degradation of that habitat by invasive plants,  
14 insects, and even diseases such as Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death; direct  
15 predation by invasive rats, cats, and mongoose; and deadly  
16 diseases spread by mosquitoes, particularly avian malaria; and

17  
18           WHEREAS, since the introduction to Hawai'i of mosquitoes in  
19 1826 and mosquito-spread diseases, such as avian malaria and  
20 pox, in the 1900s, the range of Hawaiian honeycreepers has  
21 largely shrunk to high-elevation cool forests, such as the  
22 Alaka'i Plateau on Kaua'i, Haleakalā on Maui, and Mauna Kea and  
23 Mauna Loa on Hawai'i Island; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, the gradual warming of Hawai'i's climate is  
26 enabling mosquitoes to move into the remaining disease-free,  
27 higher-elevation refuges; and

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29           WHEREAS, for most honeycreepers, one bite from a mosquito  
30 carrying avian malaria can result in death, and it is estimated



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1 that many Hawaiian honeycreepers will become extinct within the  
2 next ten years if mosquito populations are not controlled,  
3 predators are not better managed, and ongoing conservation  
4 efforts are not continued; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian honeycreepers, like all native manu  
7 species, are integral to the State's ecosystems and culture, and  
8 the once intimate pilina (relationships and connections) between  
9 communities and manu have been diminished due to their  
10 disappearance from the landscape; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, Hawaiian honeycreepers, like all the manu species,  
13 function as pollinators, nutrient cyclers, seed dispersers, and  
14 pest managers, keeping the forests of Hawai'i healthy and  
15 ensuring that the forests can function like a sponge to draw in,  
16 filter, and retain wai (water); and

17  
18 WHEREAS, Kānaka Maoli foster reciprocal relationships with  
19 the native manu of Hawai'i and respect them as messengers between  
20 the akua (gods; elements in nature) and kānaka; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, these relationships are captured within cultural  
23 knowledge, including mo'olelo (stories), 'ōlelo no'eau (proverbs),  
24 ka'ao (legends), and mele (songs); and

25  
26 WHEREAS, feathers from honeycreepers played an integral  
27 role in ancient Hawai'i, where they were used in an artform of  
28 global excellence to adorn ali'i with symbols of their power and  
29 authority; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, community awareness and support are essential to  
32 the success of the actions needed to mālama Hawai'i's native  
33 manu, particularly honeycreepers; now, therefore,

34  
35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular  
37 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that this body  
38 recognizes August 8, 2023, as Hawaiian Honeycreepers Celebration  
39 Day throughout the State; and  
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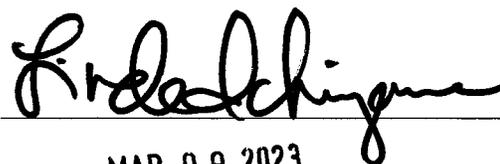
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people, organizations, and  
 2 government of Hawai'i are encouraged to observe Hawaiian  
 3 Honeycreepers Celebration Day with appropriate activities and  
 4 ceremonies to deepen the pilina with the native manu and to  
 5 strengthen support for conservation efforts to restore the  
 6 native birds of Hawai'i to abundance; and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; mayor of  
 10 each county; each member of Hawai'i's Congressional delegation;  
 11 Regional Director for Parks in the Pacific West Region of the  
 12 National Park Service; Regional Director of the United States  
 13 Geological Survey, Northwest/Pacific Islands; Field Supervisor  
 14 for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific  
 15 Islands Fish and Wildlife Office; Chairperson of the Board of  
 16 Land and Natural Resources; Director of Health; Chairperson of  
 17 the Board of Regents and President of the University of Hawai'i;  
 18 co-chairs of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council; head of Birds,  
 19 Not Mosquitoes; Hawai'i State Director of The Nature Conservancy  
 20 - Hawai'i and Palmyra; Hawai'i Program Director of the American  
 21 Bird Conservancy; Chief Executive Officer of Island  
 22 Conservation; Project Coordinator of the Coordinating Group on  
 23 Alien Pest Species; Research & Management Project Coordinator of  
 24 the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project; Project Leader of the  
 25 Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project; and Chairperson of the  
 26 Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships.

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 29

OFFERED BY:



MAR 09 2023

