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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFY THE ROADS, MONUMENTS, LANDMARKS, AND PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS THAT USE THE NAME "DIAMOND HEAD" AND IDENTIFY THE PROCESS FOR RENAMING THESE ROADS, MONUMENTS, LANDMARKS, AND PUBLIC PARKS FROM "DIAMOND HEAD" TO "LĒ'AHI".

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



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 on 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, that the Department of Land and Natural  
29 Resources and City and County of Honolulu are requested to  
30 independently identify the roads, monuments, landmarks, and  
31 public parks within their respective jurisdictions that use the  
32 name "Diamond Head" and identify the process for renaming these  
33 roads, monuments, landmarks, and public parks from "Diamond  
34 Head" to "Lē'ahi"; and

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



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
4 Land and Natural Resources and Mayor of the City and County of  
5 Honolulu.

