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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES OF AND UPDATE KEY INFORMATION ON, INCLUDING FACTS AND STATISTICS, THE DECLINE OF THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PALILA (*LOXIOIDES BAILLEUI*) BIRD ON MAUNA KEA.

1 WHEREAS, the Mauna Kea conservation district is home to a  
2 number of rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and  
3 anthropods that are native and unique to Hawaii; and  
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5 WHEREAS, among these species is the critically endangered  
6 finch-billed Hawaiian honeycreeper, or palila (*Loxioides*  
7 *bailleui*); and  
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9 WHEREAS, over ninety-six percent of the world's palila  
10 population lives within the palila critical habitat, which is  
11 located on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea at elevations  
12 between six thousand and ten thousand feet; and  
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14 WHEREAS, for decades, the presence of sheep and goat  
15 populations threatened the health of the Mauna Kea Mamane-Naio  
16 Forest, which contributed to the decline of palila in the  
17 surrounding area; and  
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19 WHEREAS, despite the eradication of sheep and goats in the  
20 palila's habitat, and a full recovery of the Mauna Kea Mamane-  
21 Naio Forest, there are only one thousand mature adult palila  
22 left on Mauna Kea; and  
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24 WHEREAS, in 2021, Hawaii island suffered historic wildfires  
25 that encompassed over forty thousand acres, further endangering  
26 the palila and its habitat, the Mauna Kea Mamane-Naio Forest;  
27 now, therefore,  
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
31 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested



1 to investigate the causes of palila decline and to update and  
2 make public key information, including facts and statistics,  
3 related to palila decline on Mauna Kea; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigation is requested  
6 to include the examination of the results of the federal court  
7 mandate to eradicate sheep on Mauna Kea and protect palila  
8 populations; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
11 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its  
12 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
13 legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior  
14 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
18 Land and Natural Resources.

