

MAR 10 2023

---

---

# SENATE 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

5  
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

10  
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 'Ōhia 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 of mosquitoes to Hawai'i in  
19 1826 and mosquito-borne diseases, such as avian malaria and pox,  
20 in the 1900s, the range of Hawaiian honeycreepers has largely  
21 shrunk to high-elevation cool forests such as the Alaka'i Plateau  
22 on Kaua'i, Haleakalā on Maui, and Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa on  
23 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

28  
29           WHEREAS, for most honeycreepers, one bite from a mosquito  
30 carrying avian malaria can result in death, and it is estimated  
31 that many Hawaiian honeycreepers will become extinct within the  
32 next ten years if mosquito populations are not controlled,



1 predators are not better managed, and ongoing conservation  
2 efforts are not continued; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian honeycreepers, like all native manu  
5 species, are integral to the State's ecosystems and culture, and  
6 the once intimate pilina (relationships and connections) between  
7 communities and manu have been diminished due to their  
8 disappearance from the landscape; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian honeycreepers, like all manu species,  
11 function as pollinators, nutrient cyclers, seed dispensers, and  
12 pest managers, keeping the forests of Hawai'i healthy and  
13 ensuring that the forests can function like a sponge to draw in,  
14 filter, and retain wai (water); and

15  
16 WHEREAS, Kānaka Maoli foster reciprocal relationships with  
17 the native manu of Hawaii and respect them as messengers between  
18 the akua (gods; elements in nature) and kānaka; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, these relationships are captured within cultural  
21 knowledge, including mo'olelo (stories), 'ōlelo no'eau (proverbs),  
22 ka'ao (legends), and mele (songs); and

23  
24 WHEREAS, feathers from honeycreepers played an integral  
25 role in ancient Hawai'i, where they were used in an artform of  
26 global excellence to adorn ali'i with symbols of their power and  
27 authority; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, community awareness and support are essential to  
30 the success of the actions needed to mālama Hawai'i's native  
31 manu, particularly honeycreepers; now, therefore,

32  
33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the  
35 House of Representatives concurring, that this body recognizes  
36 August 8, 2023, as Hawaiian Honeycreepers Celebration Day  
37 throughout the State; and

38  
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people, organizations, and  
40 government of Hawai'i are encouraged to observe Hawaiian  
41 Honeycreepers Celebration Day with appropriate activities and



1 ceremonies to deepen the pilina with the native manu and to  
2 strengthen support for conservation efforts to restore the  
3 native birds of Hawai'i to abundance; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's  
7 congressional delegation; Regional Director for Parks in the  
8 Pacific West Region of the National Park Service; Regional  
9 Director of the United States Geological Survey,  
10 Northwest/Pacific Islands; Field Supervisor for the United  
11 States Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Fish and Wildlife  
12 Office; Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
13 Resources; Director of Health; Chairperson of the Board of  
14 Regents of the University of Hawaii; President of the University  
15 of Hawaii; mayor of each county; Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii  
16 Invasive Species Council; Head of Birds, Not Mosquitoes; Hawaii  
17 State Director of The Nature Conservancy - Hawaii and Palmyra;  
18 Hawaii Program Director of the American Bird Conservancy; Chief  
19 Executive Officer of Island Conservation; Project Coordinator of  
20 the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Research &  
21 Management Project Coordinator of the Maui Forest Bird Recovery  
22 Project; Project Leader of the Kauai Forest Bird Recovery  
23 Project; and Chairperson of the Hawaii Association of Watershed  
24 Partnerships.  
25  
26  
27

OFFERED BY:



