

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE 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 'Ōhia Death; direct  
15 predation by invasive rats, cats, and mongoose; and deadly  
16 diseases spread by mosquitoes, particularly avian malaria; and  
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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  
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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  
31 that many Hawaiian honeycreepers will become extinct within the  
32 next ten years if mosquito populations are not controlled,  
33 predators are not better managed, and ongoing conservation  
34 efforts are not continued; and  
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# S.R. NO. 107

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

6  
7           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian honeycreepers, like all manu species,  
8 function as pollinators, nutrient cyclers, seed dispensers, and  
9 pest managers, keeping the forests of Hawai'i healthy and  
10 ensuring that the forests can function like a sponge to draw in,  
11 filter, and retain wai (water); and

12  
13           WHEREAS, Kānaka Maoli foster reciprocal relationships with  
14 the native manu of Hawaii and respect them as messengers between  
15 the akua (gods; elements in nature) and kānaka; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, these relationships are captured within cultural  
18 knowledge, including mo'olelo (stories), 'ōlelo no'eau (proverbs),  
19 ka'ao (legends), and mele (songs); and

20  
21           WHEREAS, feathers from honeycreepers played an integral  
22 role in ancient Hawai'i, where they were used in an artform of  
23 global excellence to adorn ali'i with symbols of their power and  
24 authority; and

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

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30           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
32 that this body recognizes August 8, 2023, as Hawaiian  
33 Honeycreepers Celebration Day throughout the State; and

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35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people, organizations, and  
36 government of Hawai'i are encouraged to observe Hawaiian  
37 Honeycreepers Celebration Day with appropriate activities and  
38 ceremonies to deepen the pilina with the native manu and to  
39 strengthen support for conservation efforts to restore the  
40 native birds of Hawai'i to abundance; and



# S.R. NO. 107

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

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OFFERED BY: 

