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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Kaena point  
2 state park, Makua and Keawaula sections are known for their  
3 beauty, cultural and historical significance, and exceptional  
4 value to the Hawaiian community. Historically, these areas were  
5 primarily known for their lawaia, or fishing practices, as well  
6 as other traditional Native Hawaiian practices, including lua,  
7 or warrior training, and laau lapaau, or medicinal practices.  
8 These areas are places of cultural enlightenment and healing and  
9 are rich in moolelo, or history, encompassing life from  
10 beginning to end.

11           In 2016, due to years of overuse and abuse from illegal  
12 driving on the beach, unmanaged camping, harmful fishing and  
13 gathering practices, and other recreational uses that resulted  
14 in unacceptable, potentially hazardous accumulations of  
15 dangerous rubbish and human waste, certain areas within the  
16 Kaena point state park, Makua and Keawaula sections were closed  
17 to overnight access. The intent was to reopen these areas with  
18 a proper management system in place that encompasses Hawaiian



1 management values in balancing public use with the  
2 preservation of the aina, wildlife, and cultural resources.  
3 However, a proper management system has yet to be implemented.

4 The legislature notes that prioritizing the State's natural  
5 resources is an essential component of destination management.  
6 Before 2020, annual arrivals to the State exceeded ten million  
7 visitors, and according to state economists, by 2025, Hawaii  
8 will again return to pre-pandemic tourism levels. Social media  
9 has only perpetuated this growth. The legislature believes that  
10 rising visitor numbers in Hawaii's state parks could be better  
11 managed by implementing various types of management systems.

12 The legislature further finds that in 2018, massive  
13 flooding on Kauai damaged surrounding bridges, beaches, and  
14 roads, thereby forcing Haena state park to close for fourteen  
15 months. When the park reopened, the department of land and  
16 natural resources worked with the local community to implement a  
17 management system that balanced public use with Hawaiian  
18 cultural values and the preservation of the aina, wildlife, and  
19 cultural resources. Furthermore, based on the success of the  
20 Haena state park model, House Bill No. 2446, Regular Session of  
21 2022, was introduced to appropriate moneys for the department of



1 land and natural resources to replicate reservation system  
2 models, including those used at Haena state park. That measure  
3 also appropriated additional moneys from the state parks special  
4 fund for purposes of state park maintenance.

5 Recently implemented management plans and models have been  
6 shown to improve and promote a more harmonious relationship  
7 between public use and park maintenance and preservation. The  
8 Kaena point state park, Makua and Keawaula sections are in dire  
9 need of a similar model. Although the needs of each state park  
10 may be similar, each park is unique and its needs may vary based  
11 on location and usage.

12 Abuse and harmful activities have plagued the ahupuaa of  
13 Makua, Kahanahaiki, and Keawaula for more than a century. The  
14 legislature finds that a proper management system for these  
15 areas is long overdue and the implementation of a system to  
16 improve public safety and environmental protection is necessary.

17 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
18 land and natural resources to develop and implement an improved  
19 management system for the Kaena point state park, Makua and  
20 Keawaula sections.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural  
2 resources shall develop and implement an improved management  
3 system for the Kaena point state park, Makua and Keawaula  
4 sections that is unique and tailored to address the specific  
5 public access and natural and cultural resource needs of these  
6 two significant and undeveloped portions of Kaena point state  
7 park.

8 (b) In the development and implementation of the  
9 management system for the Kaena point state park, Makua and  
10 Keawaula sections the department of land and natural resources  
11 shall:

12 (1) Collaborate collectively with community stakeholders  
13 and cultural practitioners of the affected areas;

14 (2) Work with other departmental divisions, the city and  
15 county of Honolulu, department of transportation, and  
16 other parties having jurisdiction over the encompassed  
17 land and marine areas;

18 (3) Ensure the sustainability and success of the  
19 management system by working with outside partners,  
20 including local nonprofit organizations, in a similar



1 manner as has previously been done with other state  
2 park management systems; and  
3 (4) Maintain the current limited access requirements in  
4 place at the Kaena point state park, Makua and  
5 Keawaula sections due to misuse and the lack of  
6 staffing for enforcement and management until the  
7 department and community stakeholders determine that  
8 proper measures have been employed to address and  
9 resolve these issues.

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Kaena Point State Park; Makua; Keawaula

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement a management system for the Kaena point state park, Makua and Keawaula sections. (CD1)

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