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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 Ka'ena point state  
2 park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions, are significant for their  
3 beauty, cultural and historical significance, and exceptional  
4 value to the Hawaiian community. Historcally, these areas were  
5 primarily known for their lawai'a (fishing practices), as well as  
6 other traditional Native Hawaiian practices such as lua (warrior  
7 training) and la'au lapa'au (medicinal practices). These areas  
8 are places of cultural enlightenment and healing and are rich in  
9 mo'olelo (history) encompassing life from beginning to end.

10           In 2016, due to years of overuse and abuse from illegal  
11 driving on the beach, unmanaged camping, harmful fishing and  
12 gathering practices, and other recreational uses that resulted  
13 in unacceptable, potentially hazardous accumulations of  
14 dangerous rubbish and human waste, areas of Ka'ena point state  
15 park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions were closed to overnight  
16 access. The intent was to reopen with a proper management



1 system in place that encompasses Hawaiian management values in  
2 balancing public use with the preservation of the 'āina,  
3 wildlife, and cultural resources. However, a proper management  
4 system has yet to be implemented.

5 The legislature notes that prioritizing the State's natural  
6 resources is an essential component of destination management.  
7 Before 2020, annual arrivals to the State exceeded 10,000,000  
8 visitors, and according to state economists, by 2025, Hawaii  
9 will again return to pre-pandemic tourism levels. Social media  
10 has only perpetuated this growth. The legislature believes that  
11 rising visitor numbers in Hawaii's state parks could be better  
12 managed by implementing various types of management systems.

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



1 2022, was introduced to appropriate moneys for the department of  
2 land and natural resources to replicate models such as used at  
3 Hāena state park. That measure also appropriated additional  
4 moneys from the state parks special fund for purposes of state  
5 park management.

6 Recently implemented management plans and models have been  
7 shown to improve and promote a more harmonious relationship  
8 between public use and park maintenance and preservation. Ka'ena  
9 point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions are in dire need  
10 of such a model. Although the needs of each state park may have  
11 their similarities, each park is unique and its needs may vary  
12 based on location and useage.

13 The abuse and harmful activities have plagued these ahupua'a  
14 of Mākua, Kahanahāiki, and Keawa'ula for more than a century.  
15 The legislature finds that a proper management system for these  
16 areas is long overdue and the implementation of a system to  
17 improve public safety and environmental protection is necessary.

18 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
19 land and natural resources to develop and implement an improved  
20 management system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and  
21 Keawa'ula regions.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural  
2 resources shall develop and implement a management system to  
3 allow for improved management, such as what has been utilized  
4 and deemed successful at Hāena state park; provided that the  
5 management system pursuant to this Act shall be unique and  
6 tailored to the specific criteria and needs of Ka'ena point state  
7 park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions.

8 (b) In the development and implementation of a management  
9 system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions,  
10 the department of land and natural resources shall:

- 11 (1) Collaborate collectively with community stakeholders  
12 and cultural practitioners of the specific regions;
- 13 (2) Work with all parties that share land use and  
14 jurisdiction within the encompassed land and marine  
15 areas;
- 16 (3) Ensure the sustainability of the management system by  
17 working with outside partners, such as local non-  
18 profit organizations, as has been done at other state  
19 parks management systems; and



1 (4) Maintain the current limited access due to misuse and  
2 the lack of management until proper measures are  
3 employed to address and resolve these issues.

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

5



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Ka'ena Point State Park, Mākua, Keawa'ula

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement a management system for Ka'ena point state park, Mākua, and Keawa'ula regions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

