
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 regions 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 specific areas within
16 the Kaena point state park, Makua, and Keawaula regions were
17 closed to overnight access. The intent was to reopen these



1 areas with a proper management system in place that encompasses
2 Hawaiian management values in balancing public use with the
3 preservation of the aina, wildlife, and cultural resources.

4 However, a proper management 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 ten million
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 Haena 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 aina, wildlife, and
20 cultural resources. Furthermore, based on the success of the
21 Haena 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 reservation system
3 models, including those used at Haena state park. That measure
4 also appropriated additional moneys from the state parks special
5 fund for purposes of state 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. The
9 Kaena point state park, Makua, and Keawaula regions are in dire
10 need of a similar model. Although the needs of each state park
11 may have their similarities, each park is unique and its needs
12 may vary based on location and useage.

13 Abuse and harmful activities have plagued the ahupuaa of
14 Makua, Kahanahaiki, and Keawaula for more than a century. The
15 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 the Kaena point state park, Makua, and
21 Keawaula regions.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
2 resources shall develop and implement an improved management
3 system similar to the system used at Haena state park, which has
4 been deemed successful, for the Kaena point state park, Makua,
5 and Keawaula regions that is unique and tailored to address the
6 specific needs of these areas.

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

- 11 (1) Collaborate collectively with community stakeholders
12 and cultural practioners of the affected areas;
- 13 (2) Work with all parties having jurisdiction over the
14 encompassed land and marine areas;
- 15 (3) Ensure the sustainability of the management system by
16 working with outside partners, including local non-
17 profit organizations, in the same manner as has
18 previously been done with other state park management
19 systems; and
- 20 (4) Maintain the current limited access requirements in
21 place at the Kaena point state park, Makua, and



1 Keawaula regions due to misuse and the lack of
2 management until the department determines that proper
3 measures have been employed to address and resolve
4 these issues.

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



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 regions. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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