
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH A SEARCH AND RESCUE DIVISION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO SUPPLEMENT AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND VOLUNTEERS TO IMPROVE THE TIMELINE OF RESCUE OR RECOVERY AND NUMBER OF MISSING INDIVIDUALS RESCUED OR RECOVERED.

1 WHEREAS, the natural and unique beauty of Hawaii's beaches,
2 mountains, valleys, and other venues of outdoor recreational
3 activity attracts hundreds of residents and visitors each day;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, these outdoor recreational activities can often be
7 treacherous, leading to missing individuals; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
10 the state agency responsible for many of the State's popular
11 outdoor activities, such as hiking, ocean recreational
12 activities, hunting areas, and more; and

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14 WHEREAS, according to the National Missing and Unidentified
15 Persons System of the National Institute of Justice, Hawaii
16 ranks in the top seven of unresolved unclaimed persons cases;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, the county fire and police departments typically
20 search for missing persons up to seventy-two hours after a
21 report has been made and then may cease search and rescue
22 activities; and

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24 WHEREAS, a significant portion of unresolved cases of
25 missing persons in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons
26 System are missing beyond the seventy-two-hour timeframe; and
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1 WHEREAS, volunteer search and rescue nonprofit
2 organizations, such as Maui Search and Rescue, Oahu Search and
3 Rescue, Kauai Search and Rescue, and the Search Technology
4 Advisory Team, respond to search and rescue missions in place of
5 a state or county agency; and
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7 WHEREAS, the State has a duty to ensure that residents and
8 visitors are safe while participating in outdoor activities in
9 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
13 Session of 2024, that the Department of Land and Natural
14 Resources is requested to establish a Search and Rescue Division
15 within the Department to supplement and coordinate with other
16 government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers to
17 improve the timeline of rescue or recovery and number of missing
18 individuals rescued or recovered; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
22 Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:



MAR 08 2024

