S.B. NO. ¹²⁵⁸ S.D. 2 H.D. 1

C.D. 1

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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. Historcally, 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.

In 2016, due to years of overuse and abuse from illegal 11 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 dangerous rubbish and human waste, certain areas within the 15 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



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1 managagement values in balancing public use with the preservation of the aina, wildlife, and cultural resources. 2 3 However, a proper management system has yet to be implemented. The legislature notes that prioritizing the State's natural 4 5 resources is an essential component of destination management. Before 2020, annual arrivals to the State exceeded ten million 6 7 visitors, and according to state economists, by 2025, Hawaii 8 will again return to pre-pandemic tourism levels. Social media has only perpetuated this growth. The legislature believes that 9 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

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land and natural resources to replicate reservation system
models, including those used at Haena state park. That measure
also appropriated additional moneys from the state parks special
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 plaqued the ahupuaa of Makua, Kahanahaiki, and Keawaula for more than a century. The 13 14 legislature finds that a proper management system for these areas is long overdue and the implementation of a system to 15 improve public safety and environmental protection is necessary. 16 17 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of land and natural resources to develop and implement an improved 18 management system for the Kaena point state park, Makua and 19

20 Keawaula sections.



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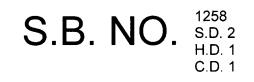


1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural 2 resources shall develop and implement an improved management 3 system for the Kaena point state park, Makua and Keawaula 4 sections that is unique and tailored to address the specific 5 public access and natural and cultural resource needs of these 6 two significant and undeveloped portions of Kaena point state 7 park. In the development and implementation of the 8 (b) 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 county of Honolulu, department of transportation, and 15 16 other parties having jurisdiction over the encompassed 17 land and marine areas; Ensure the sustainability and success of the 18 (3) 19 management system by working with outside partners,

20 including local nonprofit organizations, in a similar

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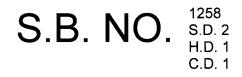
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1		manner as has previously been done with other state
2		park management systems; and
3	(4)	Maintain the current limited access requirements in
4		place at the Kaena point state park, Makua and
5		Keawaula sections due to misuse and the lack of
6		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	SECI	TION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



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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)

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

