

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO ASSESS ITS
READINESS AND ABILITY TO ASSUME STEWARDSHIP OF THE SACRED
HAWAIIAN GROUNDS OF MAUNA ALA.

1 WHEREAS, the Royal Mausoleum of Hawaii, was established in
2 1865 as the final resting place for the ruling monarchs of the
3 Kingdom of Hawaii, their families, and close advisors; and
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5 WHEREAS, from the evening of October 12, 1865, when
6 eighteen royal caskets were removed from their tomb at Pohukaina
7 and, in a formal procession, interred at the Royal Mausoleum,
8 the ruling ali'i and their families have been interred there; and
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10 WHEREAS, the care and maintenance of Mauna Ala has been the
11 kuleana of the State through the State Parks Division of the
12 Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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14 WHEREAS, Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Royal Societies, Kamehameha
15 Schools and its students, and other community groups have been
16 committed to contributing to the upkeep of Mauna Ala; and
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18 WHEREAS, concerns regarding stewardship and governance of
19 Mauna Ala were raised after ceremonies conducted at the Royal
20 Mausoleum were disallowed despite longstanding traditions; and
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22 WHEREAS, additional concerns have been raised regarding the
23 proposal to transfer the lands of Mauna Ala from the Department
24 of Land and Natural Resources to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, more transparency is needed as little information
28 regarding the proposed transfer was made available to Native
29 Hawaiians and the general public; and
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31 WHEREAS, certain organizations have expressed significant
32 opposition to S.B. No. 4 (2025), highlighting their distrust of



S.C.R. NO. 167

1 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and their dissatisfaction with
2 the Department of Land and Natural Resources' current shortfalls
3 in its care of the sacred grounds; now, therefore,

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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Office of Hawaiian
8 Affairs is requested to conduct a study assessing its readiness
9 and ability to assume stewardship of the sacred Hawaiian grounds
10 of Mauna Ala; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
13 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 the Regular Session of 2026; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs
19 is requested to develop educational programs to educate the
20 public in the history and cultural significance of Mauna 'Ala;
21 and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
24 Natural Resources is requested to draft guidelines of
25 stewardship that integrate the collective Hawaiian 'ike to ensure
26 that traditional cultural kuleana practices inform the
27 Department's stewardship practices; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chief Executive
31 Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Chairperson of
32 the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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35 OFFERED BY:

