

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN LEASES OF PUBLIC
LAND TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

1 WHEREAS, the State, as the custodian of its lands, has a
2 duty to protect the environment and ensure public lands are
3 managed responsibly; and
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5 WHEREAS, landlords commonly establish rules and conditions
6 for their tenants to protect the integrity and condition of
7 leased properties, and the State, in its capacity as a landlord,
8 should maintain the same standards; and
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10 WHEREAS, when leasing public lands, it is within the
11 authority of the State to insist that lessees, including the
12 United States Department of Defense and any branch of the United
13 States military, comply with all environmental maintenance and
14 remediation obligations; and
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16 WHEREAS, environmental contamination and degradation of
17 public lands have significant consequences for Hawaii's
18 ecosystems, water resources, and public health; and
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20 WHEREAS, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations
21 and remediation efforts serves to protect Hawaii's natural
22 resources and the well-being of its residents; now, therefore,
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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
26 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is urged to
27 prohibit any lease or lease extension for public lands between
28 the State and the United States Department of Defense or any
29 branch of the United States military if the United States
30 Department of Defense or branch of the United States military is
31 noncompliant with any order, consent decree, or memoranda of
32 agreement requiring environmental maintenance or remediation
33 activities with regard to the subject public lands or any law,



1 rule, or order on a matter affecting the health and safety of
2 the State's residents; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
5 Resources is requested to submit a formal request to the United
6 States Department of Defense to incorporate these environmental
7 compliance requirements into all current leases of public lands;
8 and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
11 Resources also request that, as an alternative option, the
12 United States Department of Defense or applicable branch of the
13 United States military remove all hazards from leased lands and
14 conduct necessary remediation and restoration services to ensure
15 that those lands are suitable for agriculture, residential use,
16 and human habitation before the end of the lease term; and

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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
19 Resources is requested to submit reports to the Legislature no
20 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2026 and
21 2027 Regular Sessions on the status of the request and any
22 related negotiations; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
26 Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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29 OFFERED BY:

Hunt Ferrell

