
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PRODUCE AND PROVIDE A LIST OF
STATE LANDS CURRENTLY LEASED TO THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA OR ANY FEDERAL AGENCY.

1 WHEREAS, article XI, section 1, of the Hawaii State
2 Constitution provides that "the State and its political
3 subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty
4 and all natural resources . . . and shall promote the
5 development and utilization of these resources in a manner
6 consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the
7 self-sufficiency of the State"; and
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9 WHEREAS, the State currently leases tens of thousands of
10 acres of state land to the federal government, including various
11 sites which have been leased to the United States military for
12 the past sixty years at the price of one dollar; and
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14 WHEREAS, the military has proven to be an unreliable
15 steward of the State's land and waters, as demonstrated by the
16 Red Hill water contamination crisis on O'ahu, the indiscriminate
17 bombing of Kaho'olawe and subsequent incomplete cleanup of
18 unexploded ordinance, and many other incidents; and
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20 WHEREAS, the United States Army itself has acknowledged
21 that "continued loss of 'āina represents a disproportionate and a
22 long term, significant, adverse impact on communities with
23 environmental justice concerns"; and
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25 WHEREAS, the Trump administration has taken actions that
26 further endanger the State's natural resources, including by
27 asserting that national parks and public lands are assets on
28 "the nation's balance sheet," by indicating that public lands
29 may be sold off to raise money for a new "sovereign wealth
30 fund," and by issuing an executive order calling for the
31 "immediate expansion" of timber production on federal lands; and
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1 WHEREAS, these policies have had an immediate negative
2 effect on precious state lands and resources, including by
3 eliminating funding for critical environmental and agricultural
4 programs across the State, and by eliminating staff and
5 caretakers at federally-owned properties within the State; and
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7 WHEREAS, these policies are poised to do further harm to
8 the State, including as a result of the Secretary of the
9 Interior's order requiring federal agencies to assess the
10 feasibility of fracking, drilling, and mining across all public
11 lands and waters, such as Papahānaumokuākea Marine National
12 Monument; and
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14 WHEREAS, the federal government has thus demonstrated a
15 clear unwillingness or inability to responsibly steward state
16 lands entrusted to it as a lessee; and
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18 WHEREAS, the current administration's actions and stated
19 intentions represent a clear and present danger to the
20 conservation and protection of the State's natural beauty and
21 natural resources; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
25 that the Attorney General is requested to produce and provide a
26 list of state lands currently leased to the United States of
27 America or any federal agency; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Attorney General is
30 requested to determine whether there are any state
31 constitutional or other legal impediments to continued leasing
32 to the federal government or offering new leases, noting
33 particularly whether leasing for nominal amounts is violative of
34 any state constitutional or statutory provisions; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any lessor of state land to the
37 federal government is requested to furnish information to the
38 Attorney General as necessary to assist with the tasks requested
39 by this Resolution; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General.

