

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO ESTABLISH
A PROGRAM THAT ENHANCES ACCESSIBILITY AND RECREATIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES IN STATE PARK WILDERNESS, TRAILS, AND
FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY OF MAUI.

1 WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities face unique
2 challenges when seeking to access and enjoy public lands, state
3 parks, and wilderness areas; and
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5 WHEREAS, the ability to connect with nature is a
6 fundamental right that fosters physical well-being, mental
7 health, and community inclusion; and
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9 WHEREAS, accessible trail programs designed to enhance the
10 experiences of disabled individuals in outdoor recreational
11 areas have proven effective in fostering inclusivity, enriching
12 lives, and promoting equity; and
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14 WHEREAS, research demonstrates the positive impacts of
15 programs such as the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Track-Chair
16 Program, which makes adaptive equipment and accessible trails
17 available to individuals having mobility impairments; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Track-Chair Program has received widespread
20 acclaim for improving physical and emotional health outcomes
21 among participants and exemplifies a successful partnership
22 between public funding and private sponsorship; and
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24 WHEREAS, similarly, the Mount Shasta Trail Association in
25 California has implemented a series of wheelchair-accessible
26 wilderness trails, including widened paths, specially designed
27 viewpoints, and signage for individuals having diverse
28 disabilities; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Track-Chair
31 Program and Mount Shasta Trail Association's series of
32 wheelchair-accessible wilderness trails in California, among
33 others, have significantly increased participation rates in



1 wilderness activities for individuals having disabilities and
2 have established a model for other states to emulate; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that Hawaii is renowned
5 for its natural beauty and recreational opportunities, and the
6 State must ensure that its public lands are accessible to all
7 residents and visitors; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to ensuring that all
10 individuals, regardless of their physical ability, have an equal
11 opportunity to experience and benefit from Hawaii's unique
12 natural landscapes; and

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14 WHEREAS, establishing an inclusive program to enhance
15 accessibility provides individuals with disabilities an
16 opportunity to engage with Hawaii's diverse ecosystems while
17 promoting equity and sustainability; now, therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
21 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to
22 establish a program that enhances accessibility and recreational
23 opportunities in state park wilderness, trails, and facilities
24 within the County of Maui; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
27 Natural Resources is requested to research and incorporate best
28 practices from successful accessibility programs, such as the
29 programs in Colorado and California, in developing policies and
30 infrastructure for state parks and trails within the County of
31 Maui; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
34 Natural Resources is encouraged to collaborate with relevant
35 stakeholders, including disability advocacy organizations,
36 community members, and private entities, to develop and
37 effectively implement the program; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, no later than twenty days
40 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026, the
41 Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to submit
42 to the Legislature a report on the progress and proposed actions



1 related to the program, including funding requirements and
2 implementation locations and timelines; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
6 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County of
7 Maui, and Chair of the County Council of Maui.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, positioned above a horizontal line.