HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT ON DESECRATION LAWS IN THE PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORM.

WHEREAS, section 150A-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires any passenger, officer, and crew member of an aircraft or vessel originating from certain areas, such as the continental United States, and embarking in Hawaii to complete the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form requires the passenger, officer, or crew member to disclose whether or not they are bringing certain articles, such as plants and animals, into the State and is used by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance with state importation laws and rules; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form also includes the Hawaii Tourism Authority's Domestic Visitors' Basic Characteristics Survey, which has been a critical component of the Hawaii Tourism Authority's research objective of collecting and reporting statistics from domestic visitors to Hawaii, has been an extremely effective survey instrument with a tremendous sample size for more than twenty years, and also provides the Hawaii Department of Agriculture with an additional tool to assist in monitoring and preventing invasive species from reaching the State; and

WHEREAS, many visitors to Hawaii may be unaware of the various federal, state, and county laws, rules, and ordinances that protect public monuments and structures they may visit while in the State, including but not limited to Native Hawaiian cultural sites, burial grounds, and places of worship; and

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WHEREAS, individuals required to complete the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form are a large, captive audience, making the form an opportune method of also notifying visitors of the laws against desecration; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to include on the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form a section for each individual required to complete the form to acknowledge and affirm that the individual:

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16 17 (1)Is aware of the existence of various federal, state, and county laws, rules, and ordinances that protect public monuments and structures, including but not limited to Native Hawaiian cultural sites, burial grounds, and places of worship;

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Is aware of ways to learn more about those laws, (2) rules, and ordinances; and

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(3) That the individual will heed those laws, rules, and ordinances; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Regional Director of the National Park Service for Region 12, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and mayor of each county.

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FEB 2.5 2025