
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
SUBMIT A DETAILED REPORT ON ITS LEASE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS
AND PROCEDURES.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
2 (Department) serves as the steward of the State's natural and
3 cultural resources and is entrusted with their protection and
4 sustainable management for present and future generations; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department administers leases for the use of
7 public lands that carry specific terms and conditions designed
8 to ensure responsible use, environmental protection, and
9 compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations; and
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11 WHEREAS, the Department has stated that it maintains a
12 policy of not renewing or issuing leases to entities that have
13 violated the terms of previous agreements and that its existing
14 protocols to ensure lease compliance are adequate; and
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16 WHEREAS, however, there exists credible evidence suggesting
17 that certain lessees, including military lessees, have violated
18 terms of their lease agreements through documented instances of
19 environmental damage, unauthorized land use, or failure to
20 fulfill contractual obligations; and
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22 WHEREAS, transparent governance requires clear
23 documentation and public reporting of how enforcement decisions
24 are made, particularly when they involve public lands held in
25 trust for all of Hawaii's residents; and
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27 WHEREAS, a comprehensive report detailing the Department's
28 lease enforcement protocols, violation histories, and renewal
29 decision criteria would provide necessary clarity on enforcement
30 decisions to policymakers and the public; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2025, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
4 requested to submit a detailed report on its lease enforcement
5 process and procedures; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is requested to
8 include the following information:
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- 10 (1) The Department's formal policies and procedures for
11 monitoring lease compliance, including the specific
12 enforcement actions taken in response to violations;
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- 14 (2) How the Department assesses whether or not a lessee is
15 in arrears with any state department or agency, in
16 good standing, or in violation of the lessee's lease
17 or memorandum of understanding, for all lessees,
18 including federal agencies;
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- 20 (3) A comprehensive accounting of the ten most recent
21 incidences where a lease was revoked or not renewed
22 due to lease violations, including the context,
23 process, and reason why the revocation or non-renewal
24 was ultimately made; and
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- 26 (4) The total number of leases that have been revoked or
27 not renewed due to lease violations; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
30 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
31 any proposed legislation for improving lease enforcement
32 mechanisms and transparency, to the Legislature no later than
33 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
34 2026; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
38 Land and Natural Resources.
39
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H.R. NO. 145

OFFERED BY: Mark A. Bulth

MAR 07 2025

