

MAR 07 2025

SENATE 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,
26 that the State is urged to prohibit any lease or lease extension
27 for public lands between the State and the United States
28 Department of Defense or any branch of the United States
29 military if the United States Department of Defense or branch of
30 the United States military is noncompliant with any order,
31 consent decree, or memoranda of agreement requiring
32 environmental maintenance or remediation activities with regard
33 to the subject public lands or any law, rule, or order on a
34 matter affecting the health and safety of the State's residents;
35 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
2 Resources is requested to submit a formal request to the United
3 States Department of Defense to incorporate these environmental
4 compliance requirements into all current leases of public lands;
5 and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
8 Resources also request that, as an alternative option, the
9 United States Department of Defense or applicable branch of the
10 United States military remove all hazards from leased lands and
11 conduct necessary remediation and restoration services to ensure
12 that those lands are suitable for agriculture, residential use,
13 and human habitation before the end of the lease term; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
16 Resources is requested to submit reports to the Legislature no
17 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2026 and
18 2027 Regular Sessions on the status of the request and any
19 related negotiations; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
23 Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Faelth

