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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND TO ADVANCE BIOSECURITY, CONSERVATION, PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES, AND OTHER ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

1           WHEREAS, the State and Aotearoa New Zealand have a shared  
2 heritage as Pacific island communities with strong histories of  
3 indigenous leadership and engagement; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Aotearoa New Zealand and the State also face many  
6 similar challenges, including the constant threat of invasive  
7 species that can destroy agricultural resources and native  
8 habitat, pushing numerous species to the brink of extinction,  
9 particularly indigenous birds and other wildlife found nowhere  
10 else in the world; and  
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12           WHEREAS, while the State has made progress in addressing  
13 the myriad causes contributing to species decline, existing  
14 efforts must be supplemented to prevent further loss of  
15 biodiversity; and  
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17           WHEREAS, Aotearoa New Zealand is a global leader in  
18 biodiversity and conservation, maintaining an integrated system  
19 to prevent, manage, and eradicate pests and diseases that  
20 threaten its economy, native plants and animals, ecosystems, and  
21 cultural and community well-being; and  
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23           WHEREAS, Aotearoa New Zealand's biosecurity system employs  
24 people, technology, processes, and rules to manage risks  
25 offshore, at the border, and within the country, making it one  
26 of the best examples of comprehensive island ecosystem  
27 protection in the world; and  
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29           WHEREAS, among other programs, Aotearoa New Zealand has  
30 created over thirty-five sanctuaries for endangered species and  
31 habitat, such as Zealandia (Te Māra a Tāne) in Wellington, which



1 is a pioneering conservation sanctuary that demonstrates how  
2 fully protected, predator-excluded habitats allow native birds,  
3 reptiles, and plants to thrive and recover in near-natural  
4 ecosystems; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, fostering a partnership between the State and  
7 Aotearoa New Zealand would allow the State to benefit from  
8 Aotearoa New Zealand's biosecurity expertise, sanctuary models,  
9 species recovery programs, and community engagement strategies  
10 to protect endangered species and restore native ecosystems;  
11 now, therefore,

12  
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
15 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is  
16 encouraged to establish a partnership with Aotearoa New Zealand  
17 to advance biosecurity, conservation, protection of endangered  
18 species, and other issues of mutual concern; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; New  
22 Zealand Consul General Hawaii; and Director of Business,  
Economic Development, and Tourism.

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