

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP WITH
NEW ZEALAND TO ADVANCE BIOSECURITY, CONSERVATION,
PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES, AND OTHER ISSUES OF
MUTUAL CONCERN.

1 WHEREAS, the State and New Zealand have a shared heritage
2 as Pacific island communities with strong histories of
3 indigenous leadership and engagement; and
4

5 WHEREAS, New Zealand and the State also face many similar
6 challenges, including the constant threat of invasive species
7 that can destroy agricultural resources and native habitat,
8 pushing numerous species to the brink of extinction,
9 particularly indigenous birds and other wildlife found nowhere
10 else in the world; and
11

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
16

17 WHEREAS, New Zealand is a global leader in biodiversity and
18 conservation, maintaining an integrated system to prevent,
19 manage, and eradicate pests and diseases that threaten its
20 economy, native plants and animals, ecosystems, and cultural and
21 community well-being; and
22

23 WHEREAS, New Zealand's biosecurity system employs people,
24 technology, processes, and rules to manage risks offshore, at
25 the border, and within the country, making it one of the best
26 examples of comprehensive island ecosystem protection in the
27 world; and
28

29 WHEREAS, among other programs, New Zealand has created
30 thirty-five sanctuaries for endangered species and habitat, such
31 as Zealandia (Te Māra a Tāne) in Wellington, which is a
32 pioneering conservation sanctuary that demonstrates how fully
33 protected, predator-excluded habitats allow native birds,



S.R. NO. 161

1 reptiles, and plants to thrive and recover in near-natural
2 ecosystems; and

3

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

10

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

16

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

21

22

23

OFFERED BY: _____

