
SENATE 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
4

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
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, 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
22

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
28

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
32 is a pioneering conservation sanctuary that demonstrates how
33 fully protected, predator-excluded habitats allow native birds,



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

3

4 WHEREAS, fostering a partnership between the State and
5 Aotearoa New Zealand would allow the State to benefit from
6 Aotearoa New Zealand's biosecurity expertise, sanctuary models,
7 species recovery programs, and community engagement strategies
8 to protect endangered species and restore native ecosystems;
9 now, 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 establish a partnership with
14 Aotearoa New Zealand to advance biosecurity, conservation,
15 protection of endangered species, and other issues of mutual
16 concern; and

17

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

22

