
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ESTABLISH A TASK
FORCE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF A NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALING
PROGRAM ON THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND
OTHER PERSONS INCARCERATED IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

1 WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe is a sacred island to the native
2 Hawaiian people, as evidenced by ancient chants and
3 archeological sites, and believed to have been inhabited for
4 more than 1,000 years; and
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6 WHEREAS, subsequent to Kaho'olawe's transfer from the
7 Republic of Hawai'i to the United States in 1898, cattle and
8 sheep were introduced to the island, resulting in a negative
9 environmental impacts such as soil erosion; and
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11 WHEREAS, in August 1910, the Territorial Board of
12 Agriculture designated Kaho'olawe as a forest reserve and
13 attempted to revegetate the island; however, realizing these
14 attempts were futile in light of the proliferation of goats on
15 the island, the Territorial Board redesignated the island,
16 transferred it to the Commissioner of Public Lands, whereby it
17 was leased to cattle ranchers; and
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19 WHEREAS, in 1941, the United States leased part of
20 Kaho'olawe for military purposes, using the island as a testing
21 and training range for military weapons, beginning five decades
22 of military bombardment and control of the island; and
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24 WHEREAS, in 1981, Kaho'olawe was designated an Archeological
25 District and listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, in 1993, Title X of the Department of Defense and
29 Appropriations Act conveyed Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters
30 to the State, providing for "meaningful safe use of the island
31 for appropriate cultural, historical, archeological, and
32 educational purposes as determined by the State of Hawaii"; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 1993, Chapter 6K, Hawaii Revised Statutes
2 (HRS), was enacted, creating the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
3 Commission (KIRC) and reserving its uses solely and exclusively
4 for the:

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6 (1) Preservation and practice of all rights customarily
7 and traditionally exercised by native Hawaiians for
8 cultural, spiritual, and subsistence purposes;

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10 (2) Preservation and protection of its archaeological,
11 historical, and environmental resources;

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13 (3) Rehabilitation, revegetation, habitat restoration, and
14 preservation; and

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16 (4) Education;

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18 and

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20 WHEREAS, section 6K-9, HRS, provides "that the State shall
21 transfer management and control of the island and its waters to
22 the sovereign native Hawaiian entity upon its recognition by the
23 United States and the State of Hawaii"; and

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25 WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe has served as the foundation for the
26 revitalization of native Hawaiian cultural practices; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Girls' Court Program, a gender-specific and
29 strength-based program targeting female juvenile offenders, was
30 granted the unique opportunity to volunteer on Kaho'olawe as part
31 of the KIRC's program, where they lived together, shared, and
32 restored the land by planting native species of vegetation,
33 cleared trails and paths, and learned about the island's
34 history; and

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36 WHEREAS, these young women benefited personally,
37 spiritually, and educationally from this unique experience
38 through learning about native Hawaiian culture and traditions,
39 providing community service, and self-discovery about their
40 young womanhood; and

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42 WHEREAS, a similar program for offenders targeted at
43 healing and teaching native Hawaiian traditions and cultural



1 practices would greatly benefit these individuals who could also
2 develop a cultural connection to Kaho'olawe by increasing their
3 knowledge and providing a purpose for them and for future
4 generations of Hawaii's people; and
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6 WHEREAS, according to Department of Public Safety (DPS)
7 statistics published in 2005, approximately 44 percent of female
8 offenders and 37 percent of male offenders are native Hawaiian;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, this program would house at least 40 offenders,
12 preparing them to become stewards of the land, learn life skills
13 with an emphasis on native Hawaiian cultural traditions, and
14 become acquainted or reacquainted with their rich heritage so
15 that in helping to heal Kaho'olawe, they would also help heal
16 themselves; and
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18 WHEREAS, a volunteer program for such offenders would
19 provide a unique opportunity for the many native Hawaiian
20 offenders and others incarcerated in correctional facilities to
21 return home to be paroled, put on probation, or put on work-
22 release; and
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24 WHEREAS, volunteers in this program would have regular or
25 instantaneous review immediately prior to and after their
26 participation in this program in much the same way as the
27 operation of Drug Court and Girls' Court; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
31 Session of 2007, that DPS is requested to convene a task force
32 to study the feasibility of a reciprocal healing program for
33 offenders on Kaho'olawe, emphasizing native Hawaiians practices
34 for native Hawaiians and other offenders; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be comprised of
37 representatives from the following entities:
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39 (1) The Director of Public Safety or the Director's
40 designee;
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42 (2) The Director of Human Services or the Director's
43 designee;



(3) The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or the Chairperson's designee;

(4) The Executive Director of KIRC or the Executive Director's designee; and

(5) The President of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana or the President's designee;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DPS is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2008, on the establishment of the task force requested by this measure, including any recommendations of the task force and any financial impacts incurred by the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Public Safety, the Director of Human Resources, the Chair of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chair of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, and the Chair of Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

