
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
CONTINUE AND EXPAND ITS EFFORTS TO RESPONSIBLY IDENTIFY
PLACES THAT CAN SUSTAIN THE IMPACT OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLE
OPERATION AND TO EVALUATE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE
DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION OF EXISTING SITES THAT PERMIT
OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES.

1 WHEREAS, the use and operation of off-road vehicles such as
2 motorcycles, all terrain vehicles, dune buggies, and dirt bikes
3 has the potential to desecrate sacred burial grounds, further
4 threaten already endangered species, and harm the natural
5 ecosystem on public lands; and
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7 WHEREAS, many people have expressed concerns about the
8 ongoing use of off-road vehicles on Hawaii's beaches; and
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10 WHEREAS, the proximity of urban and residential areas in
11 Hawaii make it difficult to provide the kind of off-road vehicle
12 opportunities on public land that are available on the mainland;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, at present, the use and operation of motorcycles,
16 all terrain vehicles, dune buggies, and dirt bikes is prohibited
17 on unencumbered state land, state parks, forest reserves, and
18 public hunting areas; and
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20 WHEREAS, all motorized vehicles are prohibited from
21 operating on beaches, through vegetation, or on any other area
22 that is not a designated roadway and violators are subject to
23 citation, arrest, or both, and the motorized equipment may be
24 seized and subject to forfeiture; and
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26 WHEREAS, Senate Bill No. 1891, Relating to Land Use, is now
27 pending before the Legislature and would, in addition to
28 existing civil penalties, make violation of chapter 171, Hawaii
29 Revised Statutes, relating to public lands and rules adopted
30 thereunder a petty misdemeanor; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is
2 charged with the management, administration, and control of
3 public lands and administers state parks, historical sites,
4 forests, forest reserves, wildlife, wildlife sanctuaries, game
5 management areas, public hunting areas, natural area reserves;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
9 been working to develop relationships with the off-road vehicle
10 community to responsibly identify places that can sustain the
11 impact of the operation of off-road vehicles and to avoid damage
12 to resources in sensitive areas from outlaw-style riding; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
15 manages and has designated for authorized off-road vehicle use
16 fifteen miles of trail on thirty-five square miles of terrain in
17 a portion of the Waiakea Timber Management Area; and
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19 WHEREAS, a riding area on state land in Kahuku, Oahu, was
20 developed in the late 1970s, but the land is subject to a lease
21 agreement with the Army, which restricts public use to weekends
22 and holidays only and closes the area completely during military
23 training periods; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the island of Lanai has miles of private lands
26 where, through an agreement with the Lanai Company, off-road
27 vehicles are allowed to ride on game management area roads
28 maintained by the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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30 WHEREAS, on the island of Kauai, the Department of Land and
31 Natural Resources manages more than eighty-eight miles of roads
32 that are accessible to off-road vehicles, most of which are
33 located within the State Forest Reserve and are access roads
34 that lead to hunting areas; and
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36 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
37 set up an initial working group on Maui to survey off-highway
38 vehicle riders about numbers, riding preferences, and related
39 issues, for identification of suitable riding areas on public
40 lands or private land; now, therefore,
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42 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
43 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
44 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested

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1 to continue and expand its efforts to identify places that can
2 sustain the impact of off-road vehicle operation; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
5 Natural Resources is requested to assess the feasibility of
6 expanding the days and hours of operation of existing sites that
7 permit operation of off-road vehicles; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
10 Natural Resources is requested to develop and implement an off-
11 road vehicle registration policy and user guidelines for
12 designated sites that permit the operation of off-road vehicles;
13 and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
17 Land and Natural Resources.

