
SENATE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A TASK FORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM, AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TO IDENTIFY AVAILABLE STATE LANDS TO RELOCATE RESIDENTS IN PUNA AND PAHOA AS A RESULT OF THE LAVA FLOW FROM THE KILAUEA VOLCANO ERUPTION.

1 WHEREAS, the Kilauea volcano began erupting in 1983 and
2 continues to spew lava; and

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4 WHEREAS, the east rift of Kilauea began erupting in early
5 2007, posing a foreseeable near term threat to residents of Puna
6 and Pahoa; and

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8 WHEREAS, instead of going south to the ocean, as it did for
9 the past twenty-five years, lava has flowed to the northeast,
10 toward thousands of homes and at least 10,000 residents; and

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12 WHEREAS, the lava flow corrected itself on November 21,
13 2007, to swing back to the south; and

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15 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has
16 the statutory responsibility to "manage and administer the
17 public lands of the State . . . and all water and coastal areas
18 of the State", under section 26-15(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes,
19 and has its Bureau of Conveyances to identify the ownership of
20 all lands; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has control
23 over available lands as provided in section 204 of the Hawaiian
24 Homes Commission Act of 1920; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has the
27 responsibility under section 26-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for
28 the agricultural resources of the State, including farming; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,
31 and Tourism, through its Land Use Commission, has an inventory
32 of all classified lands; and



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WHEREAS, there exists public lands that are available and suitable to temporarily provide shelter for residents of Puna and Pahoa who are or may soon become displaced by the Kilauea volcano lava flow; and

WHEREAS, those public lands must be identified in advance of any emergency necessitating the evacuation of Big Island residents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to convene a task force that includes the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, to identify available state lands on the Big Island to relocate residents of Puna and Pahoa as a result of the Kilauea volcano lava flow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than November 1, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Governor, and the Mayor of the County of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY: *Lawrence J. Brown*

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