

MAR 16 2011

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO RELEASE PASTORAL  
AND AGRICULTURAL LEASES TO ITS BENEFICIARIES.

1           WHEREAS, native Hawaiians have traditionally had close ties  
2 to the land; and

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4           WHEREAS, after contact with the West:

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6           (1) Native Hawaiians' traditional ties to their lands were  
7 disrupted; and

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9           (2) The size of the native Hawaiian population began to  
10 decrease because of the introduction of new illnesses  
11 and diseases to which native Hawaiians had not  
12 previously been exposed;

13  
14 and

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16           WHEREAS, it was and continues to be widely believed that  
17 one way to improve the condition of native Hawaiians is to  
18 provide them with greater access to ancestral lands; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, as Hawaii's delegate to the United States  
21 Congress, Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole spearheaded the  
22 passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, designed to  
23 create a rehabilitation program for the dwindling numbers of  
24 native Hawaiians; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, in 1921, with the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes  
27 Commission Act, 1920, the United States set aside approximately  
28 200,000 acres of land to establish a permanent homeland for  
29 native Hawaiians, who were a landless and "dying" people; and



1           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, was  
2 subsequently incorporated into the Hawaii State Constitution;  
3 and  
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5           WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands was  
6 established by the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, and is  
7 headed by an executive board known as the Hawaiian Homes  
8 Commission; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands owes a  
11 fiduciary duty to its beneficiaries; and  
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13           WHEREAS, it is essential that the beneficiaries of the  
14 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands gain access to lands set aside  
15 for them as expeditiously as possible; and  
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17           WHEREAS, pastoral and agricultural leases are an important,  
18 valuable, and viable use of Hawaiian Home Lands; now, therefore,  
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20           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
23 Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to release pastoral and  
24 agricultural leases to its beneficiaries; and  
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26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home  
27 Lands submit to the Legislature, no later than 20 days prior to  
28 the convening of the Regular Session of 2012, a report of its  
29 activities and efforts with respect to the release of pastoral  
30 and agricultural leases to its beneficiaries; and  
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32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
34 United States, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, the Governor,  
35 the chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, and the  
36 chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian  
37 Affairs.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

