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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO WORK WITH AFFECTED PERSONS AND COUNTIES TO ESTABLISH REASONABLE CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATIONS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has  
2 recently proposed to designate 271,062 acres in Maui County as  
3 critical habitat for endangered species, which is more than  
4 double the amount of critical habitat already designated on the  
5 islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe; and  
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7           WHEREAS, on Maui, more than 190,000 acres are proposed for  
8 Critical Habitat Designation, which is equivalent to about 41  
9 percent of the total land area of Maui; and  
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11           WHEREAS, this overly-broad proposed Critical Habitat  
12 Designation affecting state, county, and private lands will have  
13 a negative impact on Maui County, and opponents describe this  
14 proposal as the taking of land without compensation; and  
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16           WHEREAS, an environmental impact statement should be  
17 considered before the proposed Critical Habitat Designation is  
18 finalized; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the proposed Critical Habitat Designation has the  
21 potential to adversely affect landowners due to restrictions on  
22 future use, lower property values, and increased lawsuits by  
23 activists; it may also require costly and lengthy consultations  
24 between affected parties and government agencies, stymie  
25 decision-making by state and county governments, jeopardize the  
26 ability to farm and ranch, hinder sustainability practices, and  
27 hurt the relationship between the public and the federal  
28 government; and



1           WHEREAS, some of the proposed areas for Critical Habitat  
2 Designation are state-owned parcels that may be leased to  
3 farmers and ranchers, and some are within irrigation water lease  
4 areas, raising the concern about diminished availability of  
5 irrigation water, which is especially important in this time of  
6 severe drought; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the economic impact to Maui County may have been  
9 greatly underestimated by federal officials; and  
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11           WHEREAS, even though significant portions of many Maui  
12 County farms and ranches are being proposed for designation,  
13 many of these farmers and ranchers were not adequately notified  
14 of the proposed designation by the United States Fish and  
15 Wildlife Service; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in determining which properties are proposed for  
18 Critical Habitat Designation, the United States Fish and  
19 Wildlife Service has acknowledged that it did not make specific  
20 determinations as to whether endangered species are located on  
21 the properties or whether the properties have the biological  
22 elements necessary to support endangered species; and  
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24           WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers, hunters, and others who may be  
25 affected by Critical Habitat Designation are not opposed to  
26 designating critical habitat for endangered species in  
27 appropriate areas such as public lands that are set aside to  
28 provide for preservation or rehabilitation, or private lands  
29 where the landowner voluntarily agrees to the designation; now,  
30 therefore,  
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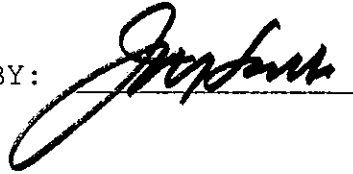
32           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
33 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
34 Session of 2013, that the United States Department of the  
35 Interior Fish and Wildlife Service is requested to work with  
36 affected persons and counties to establish reasonable Critical  
37 Habitat Designations for endangered species in the State; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States  
3 Department of the Interior; Governor; Mayor of the County of  
4 Maui; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the  
5 County of Hawaii; Mayor of the County of Kauai; Chairperson of  
6 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; and Chairperson of the  
7 Board of Directors of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 11 2013

