
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO WORK WITH AFFECTED PERSONS AND COUNTIES IN ESTABLISHING 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, the proposed Critical Habitat Designation has the
12 potential to adversely affect landowners and hurt the
13 relationship between the county and the federal government; and

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15 WHEREAS, some of the proposed areas for Critical Habitat
16 Designation are state-owned parcels that may be leased to
17 farmers and ranchers, and some are within irrigation water lease
18 areas, raising the concern about diminished availability of
19 irrigation water, which is especially important in this time of
20 severe drought; and

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22 WHEREAS, the economic impact to Maui County may have been
23 greatly underestimated by federal officials; and

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25 WHEREAS, even though significant portions of many Maui
26 County farms and ranches are being proposed for designation,
27 many of these farmers and ranchers were not adequately notified
28 of the proposed designation by the United States Fish and
29 Wildlife Service; and



1 WHEREAS, in determining which properties are proposed for
2 Critical Habitat Designation, the United States Fish and
3 Wildlife Service has acknowledged that it did not make specific
4 determinations as to whether endangered species are located on
5 the properties or whether the properties have the biological
6 elements necessary to support endangered species; and
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8 WHEREAS, farmers, ranchers, hunters, and others who may be
9 affected by Critical Habitat Designation are not opposed to
10 designating critical habitat for endangered species in
11 appropriate areas such as public lands that are set aside to
12 provide for preservation or rehabilitation, or private lands
13 where the landowner voluntarily agrees to the designation; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
18 Session of 2013, that the United States Department of the
19 Interior Fish and Wildlife Service is requested to work with
20 affected persons and counties in establishing Critical Habitat
21 Designations for endangered species in the State; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
25 Congressional Delegation; Secretary of the United States
26 Department of the Interior; Governor; Mayor of the County of
27 Maui; Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; Mayor of the
28 County of Hawaii; Mayor of the County of Kauai; Chairperson of
29 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; and Chairperson of the
30 Board of Directors of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

