
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE SALE
OF IVORY IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, African elephants are nearing extinction due to
2 their slaughter by poachers intent on selling their ivory for
3 high prices driven by consumer demand; and
4

5 WHEREAS, in March 2013, 178 nations attended the Convention
6 on International Trade in Endangered Species, where it was
7 documented that elephant slaughter has reached crisis
8 proportions; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the black market trade of ivory is skyrocketing
11 throughout the world through internet sales; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in
14 Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, adopted by the
15 United States, banned the international trade of African
16 elephant ivory in 1990; and
17

18 WHEREAS, despite prohibitions on the sale of certain
19 classes of ivory, generally, African ivory is legally sold in
20 Hawaii if it was imported before 1990, or is at least one
21 hundred years old at the time of import and has not been altered
22 since; and
23

24 WHEREAS, because it is difficult to determine the age of
25 ivory or to distinguish elephant ivory from that of other animal
26 species, except by laboratory examination by scientific experts,
27 ivory of unknown origin and age continues to be sold in Hawaii;
28 and
29

30 WHEREAS, the scale and urgency of the ivory trade
31 throughout the world and its impact on elephant populations
32 warrants a meaningful review and discussion of the efficacy of
33 Hawaii laws regarding the sale of ivory in the State; now,
34 therefore,
35



H.R. NO. 120

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 2 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 3 Session of 2014, that the Speaker of the House of
 4 Representatives is requested to convene a task force to
 5 investigate and make recommendations regarding the legal and
 6 illegal sale of ivory in the State; and

7
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
 9 the following members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
 10 Representatives:

- 11 (1) The Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on
 12 Judiciary;
- 13
 14 (2) The Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on
 15 Economic Development and Business;
- 16
 17 (3) A representative from the Department of the Attorney
 18 General;
- 19
 20 (4) A representative from the Hawaiian Humane Society; and
- 21
 22 (5) Any other members that the Speaker of the House of
 23 Representatives may appoint at the Speaker's
 24 discretion.
 25

26
 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 28 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
 29 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
 30 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015.

31
 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 33 Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General and the
 34 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Humane
 35 Society.

36
 37
 38 OFFERED BY:

Karl Rhoads
Ed Witt *Calvin K. Soy*
[Signature]
B. K. Kalyani

