

MAR 07 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A TRUST FUND AS A MEANS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO MAKE STRONG FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS WHILE SUPPORTING CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION OF HAWAII'S NATIVE TREES, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND ENERGY PRODUCTION, AND PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT AND BENEFIT KEIKI AND KUPUNA, TO ESTABLISH AN ECO-TOURISM PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS VISITORS AND RESIDENTS OF HAWAII TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD PLANTING NATIVE OR FOOD-BEARING TREES IN DESIGNATED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AND TO REPORT ON FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE PRIOR TO THE 2015 REGULAR SESSION.

1 WHEREAS, this body recognizes the importance of conserving
2 and reforesting Hawaii's native trees; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources
5 currently has the administrative ability to accept funding to
6 support forest management from federal and state sources as well
7 as contributions from other parties; and
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9 WHEREAS, this body further recognizes the importance of
10 developing long-term supports and services financing options
11 that will stave off financial strain due to costly health and
12 nursing home care for the elderly; and
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14 WHEREAS, a permanent source of dedicated funding is needed
15 for programs that allow keiki to be safe, healthy, and ready to
16 succeed; and
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18 WHEREAS, people should be encouraged to make financial
19 investments while supporting conservation, reforestation of
20 Hawaii's native trees, environmental stewardship, and
21 sustainable food and energy production, through programs that
22 support and benefit keiki and kupuna; and
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24 WHEREAS, an eco-tourism program could be established to
25 allow visitors and residents of Hawaii to purchase native or
26 food-bearing trees for a fee to be planted in the State; and



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WHEREAS, the fees collected through the eco-tourism program could be held in a trust fund that may be used initially to administer the eco-tourism program and eventually for educational programs that support and benefit the State's children and youth and for caregiving services and programs that support and benefit the State's elderly population; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is requested to:

- (1) Study the feasibility of establishing a trust fund as a means to encourage people to make strong financial investments while supporting conservation, reforestation of Hawaii's native trees, environmental stewardship, sustainable food and energy production, and programs that support and benefit keiki and kupuna;
- (2) Establish an eco-tourism program that allows visitors and residents of Hawaii to contribute toward planting native or food-bearing trees in designated areas throughout the State; and
- (3) Report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY: *Melanie J. Kim*
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