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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PRESERVE  
PUEO HABITAT AREAS ACROSS THE STATE AND CONDUCT AN  
EXTENSIVE PUEO HABITAT INVENTORY.

1           WHEREAS, Honouliuli Ewa Plain Pueos, the Disappearing  
2 Sacred Guardians of Native Lands on The Ewa Plain, are listed by  
3 the State of Hawaii as an endangered species on the island of  
4 Oahu; and  
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6           WHEREAS, pueo, the Hawaiian owl and "bird of wisdom", have  
7 a special place in Hawaii's mythology, known for offering  
8 guidance and protection, and have silently sailed over the  
9 Hawaiian Islands for well over one thousand years; and  
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11           WHEREAS, pueo, scientific name *Asio flammeus sandwichensis*,  
12 are an endemic species of owl, which evolved in the Hawaiian  
13 Islands with no fossil record before the Polynesians arrived in  
14 the islands; and  
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16           WHEREAS, there are Pueo Awards, Pueo Scholars, Pueo  
17 Programs, Pueo Pride, the University of Hawaii-West Oahu pueo  
18 mascot, and yet, the real pueo that once thrived in great  
19 numbers has been forgotten; and  
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21           WHEREAS, throughout Hawaii, streets, areas, and valleys  
22 bear the pueo's name, with many such places having an intriguing  
23 legend attached to them, and yet, our society and culture today  
24 might let this great, beautiful, endangered species, which is  
25 greatly loved in the islands, die off; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, the guardian pueo belongs to heaven and earth, and  
28 it was believed that after the death of an ancestor, the spirit  
29 could still protect and influence the remaining family acting  
30 through the body of the pueo; and



1 WHEREAS, the pueo was revered by the ancient Hawaiians as  
2 an aumakua, or ancestral guardian of many Hawaiian families and  
3 was associated with skill in battle, and that an encounter with  
4 the pueo is considered to be an omen; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, pueo truly fly without as much as a whisper of  
7 sound, the owl's lethal talons and beak are hidden in a cloak of  
8 soft, attractive thick feathers, their eyes, big and round, seem  
9 human but deeply penetrating; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the pueo, unlike most owls, is mostly active  
12 during the day and loves to fly at high altitude above open,  
13 grassy areas, and is often seen hunting at dawn and sunset,  
14 hovering over their prey before diving down for the kill; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, pueo nest right on the ground, in grassy areas,  
17 laying three to six eggs over a few months with the eggs  
18 hatching at different times, and the young may fledge from the  
19 nest on foot before they are able to fly, depend on their  
20 parents for approximately two months, and are vulnerable to  
21 feral cats, dogs, rats, and mongoose; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the pueo once flew in great numbers in the late  
24 1800s on Oahu, but is rarely seen any more on the Ewa Plain due  
25 to its need for an established habitat protection plan  
26 specifically for the pueo; and

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28 WHEREAS, pueo can also benefit from State and privately-  
29 supported management activities designed to conserve other  
30 endangered birds, and can benefit from game bird management as  
31 densities of pueo occur on lands where game birds also are  
32 common; now, therefore,

33  
34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
35 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
36 Session of 2016, that the Department of Land and Natural  
37 Resources is urged to preserve pueo habitat across the State and  
38 conduct an extensive pueo habitat inventory; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
3 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Hawaiian  
4 Homes Commission, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of  
5 Hawaiian Affairs, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and  
6 Commander of Navy Region Hawaii.

