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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT  
AN EXTENSIVE STATEWIDE PUEO HABITAT INVENTORY.

1 WHEREAS, across the world, the owl serves as a symbol of  
2 wisdom and knowledge; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the pueo, or Hawaiian short-eared owl, is an  
5 endemic subspecies of the short-eared owl and is thought to have  
6 colonized the Hawaiian islands sometime after the arrival of  
7 Polynesians; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the pueo has a dark mask surrounding large, yellow  
10 eyes and, unlike most owls, is mostly active during the day and  
11 flies at high altitudes above open, grassy areas; and  
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13 WHEREAS, the pueo nests on the ground in grassy areas,  
14 laying three to six eggs over a few months, and young pueo  
15 depend on their parents for approximately two months; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the pueo is known as the "bird of wisdom" and has  
18 a special place in Hawaii's culture; and  
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20 WHEREAS, the pueo is known for offering guidance and  
21 protection and is revered by the ancient Hawaiians as an  
22 'aumakua, or ancestral guardian, of many Hawaiian families; and  
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24 WHEREAS, throughout the State there are streets, areas,  
25 schools, and valleys that use and reference the pueo; and  
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27 WHEREAS, pueo were widespread at the end of the nineteenth  
28 century but are thought to be declining in numbers, especially  
29 on the Ewa plain; and  
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1 WHEREAS, young pueo nestlings are vulnerable to feral cats,  
2 dogs, rats, and mongoose, and the State has listed the species  
3 as endangered on Oahu; and  
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5 WHEREAS, SunEdison, LLC; Kaheawa Wind Power II; Kahuku Wind  
6 Power; Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission; University of  
7 Hawaii; United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United  
8 States Department of Agriculture have provided ongoing  
9 cooperation with the State in efforts to protect the pueo; and  
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11 WHEREAS, state- and privately-supported management  
12 activities designed to protect other endangered birds and  
13 preserve habitats can benefit the pueo, as there are more pueo  
14 on lands where game birds also are common; now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land  
19 and Natural Resources is urged to conduct an extensive statewide  
20 pueo habitat inventory, with emphasis on Oahu, in collaboration  
21 with the University of Hawaii, nonprofit environmental  
22 organizations, and other stakeholders; and  
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
25 Natural Resources is requested to submit an interim report  
26 regarding the pueo habitat inventory, including an estimate of  
27 the time and resources necessary to complete a statewide pueo  
28 population estimate and statewide habitat inventory, to the  
29 Legislature no later than one month prior to the convening of  
30 the Regular Session of 2018; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
34 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,  
35 Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chief Executive  
36 Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, President of the  
37 University of Hawaii System, mayors of the several counties, and  
38 Commander of Navy Region Hawaii.  
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