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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY  
POTENTIAL SOURCES AND MEANS OF FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE  
SUPPORT FOR AND HELP MAINTAIN THE HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER  
FACILITY AND HAWAII'S ENDANGERED WILDLIFE.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii has the largest concentration of endangered  
2 and threatened species in the world, a majority of which are  
3 birds; and  
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5           WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the various types of  
6 endemic Hawaiian birds are already extinct and over eighty  
7 percent of the remaining types are threatened with extinction;  
8 and  
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10           WHEREAS, oil- and fuel-related spills affecting Hawaii's  
11 native wildlife have occurred in the past and will occur in the  
12 future; and  
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14           WHEREAS, oiled wildlife response is a critical public  
15 service that requires extensive experience, wildlife  
16 rehabilitation permits, and the appropriate hazardous materials  
17 safety training and certification; and  
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19           WHEREAS, successful emergency responses to oil- or fuel-  
20 related disasters require a facility that provides efficient and  
21 state-of-the-art wildlife care; controls, handles, and tracks  
22 animals and hazardous waste; and ensures the safety of everyone  
23 working with oiled wildlife; and  
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25           WHEREAS, successful emergency responses to wildlife  
26 affected by oil- or fuel-related disasters rely on the  
27 availability of facilities, systems, and protocols that are  
28 already in place, so response can begin immediately after an  
29 event occurs; and  
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1 WHEREAS, without a response facility in place, public  
2 safety would be compromised due to potential exposure to  
3 hazardous petroleum products because of improper handling of  
4 affected wildlife; and  
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6 WHEREAS, without a response facility in place, Hawaii's  
7 native wildlife would suffer and accidents affecting them would  
8 result in a higher mortality rate; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Wildlife Center already serves as a  
11 critical emergency response facility for the training of  
12 response personnel and volunteers, and for the rehabilitation of  
13 injured, sick, and contaminated wildlife throughout the Pacific  
14 Islands region; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Wildlife Center is the only native  
17 wildlife emergency response and rehabilitation facility in the  
18 State and in the Pacific Islands region that meets all federal  
19 and state standards for accommodating large-scale rescue and  
20 rehabilitation efforts targeting sick, injured, or oiled  
21 wildlife; and  
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23 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that the Hawaii Wildlife  
24 Center provides a critical public service that serves the  
25 purpose of protecting the public and Hawaii's vulnerable  
26 endangered wildlife; and  
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28 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Wildlife Center facility provides a  
29 critical public service to the State of Hawaii but does not  
30 receive any operational funding assistance from the State or  
31 federal government; now, therefore,  
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
35 2019, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
36 requested to convene a task force to evaluate and identify  
37 potential sources and means of funding available to support and  
38 help maintain the Hawaii Wildlife Center facility to provide a  
39 critical public service of protecting the public and Hawaii's  
40 endangered wildlife; and  
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health, or the  
43 Director's designee, and the Chairperson of the Board of Land  
44 and Natural Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, are



1 requested to serve as the co-chairs of the task force, and that  
2 the task force also be composed of:

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- 4 (1) One member to be appointed by the President of the  
5 Senate;
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- 7 (2) One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
8 of Representatives;
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- 10 (3) One member representing the Hawaii Wildlife Center;
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- 12 (4) The State On-Scene Coordinator of the Department of  
13 Health's Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response  
14 Office;
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- 16 (5) The Wildlife Program Manager of the Department of Land  
17 and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and  
18 Wildlife;
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- 20 (6) The Commander of the United States Coast Guard Sector  
21 Honolulu; and
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- 23 (7) A contaminant biologist from the United States Fish  
24 and Wildlife Service; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
27 evaluate the appropriate level of funding and the potential use  
28 of the environmental response revolving fund established under  
29 section 128D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to help maintain the  
30 Hawaii Wildlife Center facility; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
33 also consider grant-in-aid funding pursuant to chapter 42F,  
34 Hawaii Revised Statutes, as an additional funding source for the  
35 Hawaii Wildlife Center; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
38 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
39 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
40 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
41 2020; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
44 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,



1 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Deputy  
2 Director for Environmental Health Administration, Administrator  
3 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of  
4 Forestry and Wildlife, Commander of the United States Coast  
5 Guard District 14, Director of the United States Fish and  
6 Wildlife Service, and President and Center Director of the  
7 Hawaii Wildlife Center.

