
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN INDEPENDENT
COUNTY ON THE ISLAND OF MOLOKAI.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii comprises four major counties:
2 the Counties of Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, and the City and County of
3 Honolulu; and

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5 WHEREAS, each county represents a distinctive and unique
6 island, with its own culture, history, charm, and needs; and

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8 WHEREAS, the island of Molokai also has its own culture,
9 history, and people, that are unlike those of any of its
10 neighbor islands; and

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12 WHEREAS, Molokai has a long history of subsistence
13 agriculture, particularly the cultivation of taro and fishponds;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, residents of Molokai have expressed a desire to
17 protect and preserve the subsistence lifestyle, while also
18 establishing a more diversified, resilient, and service-based
19 economy; and

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21 WHEREAS, it is only because of its relatively small
22 population that the island of Molokai falls under the
23 jurisdiction of the County of Maui; and

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25 WHEREAS, the location of council meetings on the island of
26 Maui makes it difficult for Molokai residents to attend and
27 participate, since travel options between the islands of Molokai
28 and Maui are limited; and

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30 WHEREAS, in 1998, the Maui County Council conducted a
31 feasibility study that indicated that a substantial increase of



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1 3,000 percent in property taxes would occur if Molokai was to
2 become its own county; and

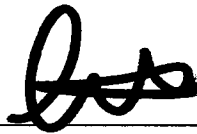
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4 WHEREAS, the uniqueness of Molokai's history, culture, and
5 economic needs warrants the creation of an independent county;
6 now, therefore,

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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
10 2019, that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
11 Tourism is requested to study the feasibility of creating an
12 independent county on the island of Molokai; and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
15 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
16 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
17 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
18 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
22 Development, and Tourism.

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OFFERED BY:  B/R

MAR 07 2019

