
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION WITH TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING, OR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN HELPING THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWE TO RECOVER FROM THE DEVASTATING FIRE THAT BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 22, 2020.

1 WHEREAS, on February 22, 2020, a large brush fire ignited
2 on the western end of the island of Kaho'olawe; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the fire blazed for days, with Maui firefighting
5 crews unable to actively combat the fire because of the danger
6 of unexploded ordnance still present on Kaho'olawe, including
7 rifle bullets and other munition from the over fifty years the
8 United States Navy used Kaho'olawe for bombing practice; and
9

10 WHEREAS, since the United States Navy conveyed deed of
11 ownership of Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawaii in 1994, about
12 sixty-five percent of the island has been cleared of surface
13 unexploded ordnance, while ten percent has been cleared to a
14 depth of four feet; and
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16 WHEREAS, the remaining twenty-five percent of the island,
17 or 6,690 acres, is uncleared; and
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19 WHEREAS, during the first days of the fire, the fire swept
20 past Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's base camp located on
21 the western end of the island; and
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23 WHEREAS, the terrain on the western end of Kaho'olawe,
24 consisting of invasive non-native grasses and shrublands, made
25 the highly fire-susceptible, non-native grasses contributing
26 factors to the extent and intensity of the Kahoolawe fire; and



1 WHEREAS, though Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's
2 Honokanai'a base camp was initially spared from severe fire
3 damage, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's upland field
4 storage area suffered complete loss of several storage
5 structures, including equipment, supplies, and materials that
6 were stored in the buildings; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the loss of several motor vehicles, construction
9 equipment, and all-terrain vehicles are especially worrisome
10 since those things are essential to maintain the island
11 infrastructure and carry out Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
12 Commission's restoration efforts; and
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14 WHEREAS, despite tradewinds that made extinguishing the
15 fire more difficult, after six days, heavy rains on Kaho'olawe
16 began to douse and put out the fire; and
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18 WHEREAS, all told, the Kaho'olawe fire burned about nine
19 thousand acres, or about one-third of the island of Kahoolawe;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission now begins the
23 long road to recovery and restoring its ability to conduct
24 effective and long-term ecological restoration efforts on
25 Kaho'olawe; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
29 2020, the Senate concurring, that all state departments and
30 agencies are urged to cooperate and assist Kaho'olawe Island
31 Reserve Commission with technical, engineering, or logistical
32 support in helping the island of Kaho'olawe to recover from the
33 devastating fire of February 22, 2020; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
 3 Executive Director of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.
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OFFERED BY:

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