
HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION WITH TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING, OR LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN HELPING THE ISLAND OF KAHO'OLAWA 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
22

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
27

28 WHEREAS, though Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's
29 Honokanai'a base camp was initially spared from severe fire



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1 damage, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's upland field
 2 storage area suffered complete loss of several storage
 3 structures, including equipment, supplies, and materials that
 4 were stored in the buildings; and
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6 WHEREAS, the loss of several motor vehicles, construction
 7 equipment, and all-terrain vehicles are especially worrisome
 8 since those things are essential to maintain the island
 9 infrastructure and carry out Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
 10 Commission's restoration efforts; and
 11

12 WHEREAS, despite tradewinds that made extinguishing the
 13 fire more difficult, after six days, heavy rains on Kaho'olawe
 14 began to douse and put out the fire; and
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16 WHEREAS, all told, the Kaho'olawe fire burned about nine
 17 thousand acres, or about one-third of the island of Kaho'olawe;
 18 and
 19

20 WHEREAS, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission now begins the
 21 long road to recovery and restoring its ability to conduct
 22 effective and long-term ecological restoration efforts on
 23 Kaho'olawe; now, therefore,
 24

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

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 34 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Executive Director
 35 of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.
 36
 37
 38

OFFERED BY:



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