

MAR 03 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
UPDATE FACTS AND STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DECLINE OF
PALILA ON MAUNA KEA AND TO CONDUCT FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS
ON THE DECLINE.

1 WHEREAS, within the Mauna Kea conservation district live a
2 number of rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and
3 arthropods found nowhere else on the planet, among those
4 protected are the last of the finch-billed Hawaiian
5 Honeycreepers, the palila; and
6

7 WHEREAS, approximately ninety-six percent of the entire
8 palila population lives on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea
9 where the widest and most intact belt of māmane forest exists;
10 and
11

12 WHEREAS, palila survival relies on the māmane forest, as
13 the māmane tree produces pods with highly-nutritious seeds that
14 are the main food source of the palila; and
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16 WHEREAS, in 1979 the Department of Land and Natural
17 Resources was sued on allegations that the Department was
18 "taking" palila by maintaining sheep and goats in Palila
19 Critical Habitat causing damage to māmane forests; and
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21 WHEREAS, Palila Critical Habitat encompasses all of Mauna
22 Kea from six thousand to ten thousand feet elevation; and
23

24 WHEREAS, between 1979 and 1986, federal courts ordered the
25 eradication of sheep and goats from Palila Critical Habitat; and
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27 WHEREAS, millions have been spent on fencing and
28 eradication of sheep and goats on Mauna Kea since the order; and
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30 WHEREAS, twenty-two thousand sheep have been eradicated,
31 with only a remnant few remaining in Palila Critical Habitat and



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 2 WHEREAS, thousands of residents and visitors have lost a
 3 significant source of recreational and subsistence hunting, as
 4 well as the resulting economic stimulus, since the sheep and
 5 goat eradication on Mauna Kea; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, in 1980 there were thousands of sheep and six
 8 thousand palila in Palila Critical Habitat; and

9
 10 WHEREAS, long after the eradication of the sheep and goats
 11 and full recovery of the māmane, the population of the palila
 12 has continued to decline, its population plummeting to one
 13 thousand on Mauna Kea; now, therefore,

14
 15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 16 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
 17 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land and
 18 Natural Resources is requested to update facts and statistics
 19 relating to the palila decline on Mauna Kea and to conduct
 20 further investigations on the decline; and

21
 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 23 Natural Resources is requested to annually report its updated
 24 facts and statistics, as well as the findings of its
 25 investigations twenty days prior to the convening of each
 26 legislative session, beginning with the Regular Session of 2021;
 27 and

28
 29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 30 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 31 Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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 33
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OFFERED BY:

Clarence K. Nishikawa

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Kurt Fevella

