
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO EXPLORE
THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE MOUNT KA'ALA NATURAL AREA
RESERVE TO INCLUDE THE SLOPES OF MOUNT KA'ALA, PARTICULARLY
IN THE WAIALUA DIRECTION.

1 WHEREAS, the Mount Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve was
2 established by Executive Order No. 3099 on November 14, 1981,
3 placing one thousand one hundred acres of rugged mountain
4 terrain with a summit plateau, ridges, and gulches housing
5 lowland forests, rich in native species, under the control and
6 management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Mount Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve is located in
9 the Waianae Mountains on Oahu and encompasses the island's
10 highest point, at a four thousand twenty foot elevation
11 descending to one thousand two hundred feet; and
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13 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Land and Natural
14 Resources' website, the Mount Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve is host
15 to twelve natural communities, two of which are rare (lonomea
16 lowland dry forest and Oahu diverse lowland mesic forest); two
17 hundred eight total taxa of native plants, sixty-nine of which
18 are rare; and eleven total taxa of native animals, seven of
19 which are rare; and
20

21 WHEREAS, current management projects at the Mount Ka'ala
22 Natural Area Reserve include feral pig and non-native weed
23 control, and an ongoing volunteer program has been useful in
24 promoting environmental awareness and assisting with resource
25 management on the reserve; and
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27 WHEREAS, the Legislature set up the natural area reserve
28 system in 1970, finding that the State possesses unique natural
29 resources, such as geological and volcanological features and
30 distinctive marine and terrestrial plants and animals, many of
31 which occur nowhere else in the world, that are highly



1 vulnerable to loss by the growth of population and technology;
2 and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature further found that these unique
5 natural assets should be protected and preserved, both for the
6 enjoyment of future generations and to serve as a base line in
7 which to measure future changes in the environment; and
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9 WHEREAS, the statewide natural area reserves system was
10 established to preserve in perpetuity specific land and water
11 areas which support communities, as relatively unmodified as
12 possible, of the natural flora and fauna, as well as geological
13 sites, of Hawaii; and
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15 WHEREAS, to better safeguard the endemic species and
16 complex ecosystems in the Mount Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve, keep
17 the reserve in as pristine condition as possible, and promote
18 Hawaiian cultural preservation and native gathering rights, this
19 body finds that the possibility of expanding the area of the
20 reserve to include the slopes of Mount Ka'ala, particularly in
21 the Waialua direction, should be explored; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
24 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
25 of 2022, that the Department of Land and Natural Resources, with
26 the input of the Natural Area Reserves Systems Commission, is
27 urged to explore the possibility of expanding the Mount Ka'ala
28 Natural Area Reserve to include the slopes of Mount Ka'ala,
29 particularly in the Waialua direction; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
32 Natural Resources is requested to report its findings and
33 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
34 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
38 Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Chairperson of the
39 Natural Area Reserves System Commission.
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H.R. NO. 73

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OFFERED BY:

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