
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO INDEPENDENTLY IDENTIFY THE ROADS, MONUMENTS, LANDMARKS, AND PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS THAT USE THE NAME "DIAMOND HEAD" AND IDENTIFY THE PROCESS FOR RENAMING THESE ROADS, MONUMENTS, LANDMARKS, AND PUBLIC PARKS FROM "DIAMOND HEAD" TO "LĒ'AHĪ".

1 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi, or Diamond Head, is the most identifiable
2 landmark in Hawai'i; and

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4 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi was formed more than one hundred thousand
5 years ago by violent steam explosions that contributed to the
6 construction of the Hawaiian Islands; and

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8 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi has been known by many names over the years;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, the earliest recorded reference to Lē'ahi was Lae-
12 ahi, as the mountain was compared by Hi'iaka, the younger sister
13 of Pele, to the brow of the ahi fish; and

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15 WHEREAS, the name was later condensed to Lē'ahi; and

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17 WHEREAS, in the early 1800s, British sailors found calcite
18 crystals in the rocks on the slopes of Lē'ahi and thought they
19 were diamonds; and

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21 WHEREAS, following the discovery, Lē'ahi crater was also
22 referred to as Kaimana-Hila, or "Diamond Hill"; and

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1 WHEREAS, Lē'ahi crater has been used as a strategic military
2 lookout beginning in the 1900s and was named a National Natural
3 Landmark in 1968; and
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5 WHEREAS, today, the Lē'ahi trail is enjoyed by hundreds of
6 thousands of visitors each year; and
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8 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's mission is to
9 "strategically manage Hawai'i tourism in a sustainable manner
10 consistent with economic goals, cultural values, preservation of
11 natural resources, community desires, and visitor industry
12 needs"; and
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14 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's most recent
15 strategic plan establishes a goal to support Native Hawaiian
16 culture and the community "through genuine experiences for both
17 visitors and residents"; and
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19 WHEREAS, as a strategic choice to achieve this goal, the
20 Hawai'i Tourism Authority ensures an increased emphasis on the
21 Hawaiian language by preserving language resources past and
22 present and encouraging appropriate use of the language; and
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24 WHEREAS, due to the rich cultural history surrounding Lē'ahi
25 and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's commitment to encourage the
26 appropriate use of the Hawaiian language, it is only appropriate
27 to properly reference the landmark by its Hawaiian name; now,
28 therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
33 Land and Natural Resources and City and County of Honolulu are
34 requested to independently identify the roads, monuments,
35 landmarks, and public parks within their respective
36 jurisdictions that use the name "Diamond Head" and identify the
37 process for renaming these roads, monuments, landmarks, and
38 public parks from "Diamond Head" to "Lē'ahi"; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
41 Natural Resources and City and County of Honolulu are each



1 requested to submit a report of its findings and
2 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
3 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
4 the Regular Session of 2024; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
8 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Mayor of the City and
9 County of Honolulu.

