
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE PARKS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Makena state park is
2 a unique community resource not only for south Maui but for all
3 the people of the island. As with other state beach parks, the
4 increase in tourism volume has resulted in an excess of visitor
5 traffic to Makena state park, necessitating further investment
6 in this iconic area.

7 The legislature also finds that because of the increase of
8 visitors, amenities offered at the park are being stretched and
9 park upkeep and maintenance are being tested. The legislature
10 finds that when the same phenomenon created a strain at Haena
11 and Waianapanapa state parks, a carrying capacity study was
12 conducted and a tourism management plan was put into place. The
13 plan allowed for the generation of additional revenue from the
14 increased traffic and ensured that residents' public access to
15 these important community assets would be preserved.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
17 moneys for the department of land and natural resources to



1 conduct a carrying capacity study, which will be submitted
2 before the legislature convenes for the regular session of 2024.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
4 resources shall conduct a carrying capacity study of Makena
5 state park in the county of Maui. The study shall:

- 6 (1) Include an assessment of the carrying capacity of
7 Makena state park, including an estimate of the number
8 of persons and the amount of human activity that the
9 park can sustain without degrading natural resources,
10 cultural resources, or experiences by visitors and
11 residents;
- 12 (2) Assess the effectiveness of existing use restrictions
13 and management practices, including current park
14 hours, entrance fees, and parking fees;
- 15 (3) Assess the potential effectiveness of:
 - 16 (A) Mandatory or voluntary closures of high traffic,
17 naturally sensitive, or culturally sensitive
18 areas of the park; and
 - 19 (B) Other visitor use restrictions or management
20 practices; and



1 (4) Propose long-term management options to reduce the
2 impact of humans on the health and abundance of
3 natural resources, cultural resources, and native
4 species within the park.

5 (b) In conducting the study, the department of land and
6 natural resources shall consult with the county of Maui,
7 relevant community organizations, and other relevant entities.

8 (c) The department of land and natural resources shall
9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
10 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
12 2024.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for
16 the department of land and natural resources to conduct a
17 carrying capacity study of Makena state park in the county of
18 Maui.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DLNR; Makena State Park; Carrying Capacity; Study; Report to
Legislature; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to conduct
a study of the carrying capacity of Makena State Park in the
County of Maui. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

