
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES OF AND UPDATE KEY INFORMATION ON,
INCLUDING FACTS AND STATISTICS, THE DECLINE OF THE
CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PALILA (*LOXIOIDES BAILLEUI*) BIRD ON
MAUNA KEA.

1 WHEREAS, the Mauna Kea conservation district is home to a
2 number of rare, threatened, or endangered plants, animals, and
3 anthropods that are native and unique to Hawaii; and
4

5 WHEREAS, among these species is the critically endangered
6 finch-billed Hawaiian honeycreeper, or palila (*Loxioides*
7 *bailleui*); and
8

9 WHEREAS, over ninety-six percent of the world's palila
10 population lives within the palila critical habitat, which is
11 located on the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea at elevations
12 between six thousand and ten thousand feet; and
13

14 WHEREAS, for decades, the presence of sheep and goat
15 populations threatened the health of the Mauna Kea Mamane-Naio
16 Forest, which contributed to the decline of palila in the
17 surrounding area; and
18

19 WHEREAS, despite the eradication of sheep and goats in the
20 palila's habitat, and a full recovery of the Mauna Kea Mamane-
21 Naio Forest, there are only one thousand mature adult palila
22 left on Mauna Kea; and
23

24 WHEREAS, in 2021, Hawaii island suffered historic wildfires
25 that encompassed over forty thousand acres, further endangering
26 the palila and its habitat, the Mauna Kea Mamane-Naio Forest;
27 now, therefore,
28



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land
4 and Natural Resources is requested to investigate the causes of
5 palila decline and to update and make public key information,
6 including facts and statistics, related to palila decline on
7 Mauna Kea; and

8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the investigation is requested
10 to include the examination of the results of the federal court
11 mandate to eradicate sheep on Mauna Kea and protect palila
12 populations; and

13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
15 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report of its
16 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
17 legislation, to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior
18 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
22 Board of Land and Natural Resources.

