
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE TO IMPLEMENT A NATIVE PLANT SEEDING PROJECT IN MILILANI MAUKA TO RESTORE THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE FROM THE NOVEMBER 2023 WILDFIRES.

1 WHEREAS, plants native to Hawaii are essential to a
2 sustainable ecosystem because many are drought-tolerant and
3 require less maintenance through fertilizing and pruning; and
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5 WHEREAS, planting native species helps maintain and
6 preserve the critical biodiversity that makes Hawaii unique; and
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8 WHEREAS, non-native grasses and shrubs are highly flammable
9 and perpetuate devastating wildfires; and
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11 WHEREAS, non-native plants such as grasses and shrubs that
12 have been introduced into the island ecosystem are accustomed to
13 wildfires and easily reoccupy lands that have been recently
14 scorched by wildfires; and
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16 WHEREAS, in November 2023, wildfires damaged 2.5 square
17 miles of the critical ecosystem in Mililani Mauka, including the
18 Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge and Koolau Mountains; and
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20 WHEREAS, Mililani Mauka's impacted lands featured a native
21 forest of koa trees, uluhe fern, and twenty-two federally
22 designated endangered or threatened species that will be
23 vulnerable to invasive species takeover during ecosystem
24 recovery; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
27 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
28 Session of 2024, that the Department of Land and Natural
29 Resources is urged to work with the United States Fish and
30 Wildlife Service to implement a native plant seeding project on
31 the lands impacted by the November 2023 wildfires in Mililani



1 Mauka to protect the area from the threat of similar devastation
2 in the future; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Fish and Wildlife
6 Administrators and Project Leader of the Pacific Islands Fish
7 and Wildlife Office of the United States Fish and Wildlife
8 Service, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
9 Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the
10 Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Administrator of
11 the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the
12 Department of Land and Natural Resources.

