

JAN 25 2012

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING MAY 11, 2012 AS 'ŌPE'APE'A DAY IN HONOR OF THE  
HAWAIIAN HOARY BAT.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus semotus*)  
2 is Hawaii's only endemic land mammal. This bat, also called the  
3 Ōpe'ape'a, is a subspecies of the North American hoary bat.  
4 Notably, the Hawaiian hoary bat is the only land mammal whose  
5 subspecies is found only in Hawaii; and

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7           WHEREAS, Ōpe'ape'a refers to a half taro leaf or canoe sail  
8 shape, which are somewhat similar to the shape of the bat.  
9 Little is known about these creatures, but the Hawaiian bats are  
10 occasionally observed using lava tubes, cracks in rocks, or man-  
11 made structures for roosting; and

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13           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian hoary bat is a large and  
14 distinctively marked bat with long narrow wings. Its fur is long  
15 and soft, dark brown to black at the base, followed by a broad  
16 band of cream color, then a slightly narrower band of mahogany  
17 brown, tipped with white. The outer three colors are visible  
18 from the surface, giving the fur a frosted or "hoary"  
19 appearance. The bat has a distinctive yellowish-brown collar  
20 under its chin and yellowish ears edged in black. Dense fur  
21 extends to the tip of its tail and just beyond the wrists along  
22 the undersides of its wings, with distinctive white patches on  
23 the shoulders and wrists; and

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25           WHEREAS, Hawaiian hoary bats have been affected by habitat  
26 loss, pesticides, predation, and roost disturbance. A reduction  
27 in tree cover is suspected to be the primary reason for the  
28 species' decline in Hawaii; and

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30           WHEREAS, the Hawaiian hoary bat has been federally listed  
31 as endangered, state listed as endangered, and state recognized  
32 as indigenous at the species level and endemic at the subspecies  
33 level; and



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WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service introduced a Recovery Plan for the Hawaiian Hoary Bat on May 11, 1998; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has noted that an informed public will be more receptive to the conservation of the Hawaiian hoary bat. Educational programs can present bats in general, and the Hawaiian hoary bat in particular, as beneficial and interesting members of Hawaii's ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, May 11, 2012 will mark the fourteenth year since the entry of a Federal Recovery Plan on behalf of the Hawaiian hoary bat; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2012, the House of Representatives concurring, that May 11, 2012 be designated as Ōpe'ape'a Day by the legislature in honor of this unique and endangered Hawaiian creature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public is urged to reflect upon the native Hawaiian flora and fauna, endangered species within Hawaii, and in particular the Hawaiian hoary bat, in observance activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the mayors of the counties of Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, and the city and county of Honolulu, and Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:



