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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE SALE  
OF IVORY IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, African elephants are nearing extinction due to  
2 their slaughter by poachers intent on selling their ivory for  
3 high prices driven by consumer demand; and  
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5           WHEREAS, in March 2013, 178 nations attended the Convention  
6 on International Trade in Endangered Species, where it was  
7 documented that elephant slaughter has reached crisis  
8 proportions; and  
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10           WHEREAS, the black market trade of ivory is skyrocketing  
11 throughout the world through internet sales; and  
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13           WHEREAS, the Convention on International Trade in  
14 Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, adopted by the  
15 United States, banned the international trade of African  
16 elephant ivory in 1990; and  
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18           WHEREAS, despite prohibitions on the sale of certain  
19 classes of ivory, generally, African ivory is legally sold in  
20 Hawaii if it was imported before 1990, or is at least one  
21 hundred years old at the time of import and has not been altered  
22 since; and  
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24           WHEREAS, because it is difficult to determine the age of  
25 ivory or to distinguish elephant ivory from that of other animal  
26 species, except by laboratory examination by scientific experts,  
27 ivory of unknown origin and age continues to be sold in Hawaii;  
28 and  
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30           WHEREAS, the scale and urgency of the ivory trade  
31 throughout the world and its impact on elephant populations  
32 warrants a meaningful review and discussion of the efficacy of



1 Hawaii laws regarding the sale of ivory in the State; now,  
2 therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
6 Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Speaker of the  
7 House of Representatives is requested to convene a task force to  
8 investigate and make recommendations regarding the legal and  
9 illegal sale of ivory in the State; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of  
12 the following members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
13 Representatives:

- 14 (1) The Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on  
15 Judiciary;
- 16 (2) The Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on  
17 Economic Development and Business;
- 18 (3) A representative from the Department of the Attorney  
19 General;
- 20 (4) A representative from the Hawaiian Humane Society; and
- 21 (5) Any other members that the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives may appoint at the Speaker's  
23 discretion.

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
27 report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
28 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
29 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015.

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Attorney General and  
33 the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Humane  
34 Society.

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OFFERED BY: Karl Rhoads

~~Brenda Kuyuk~~  
~~Calvin K. My~~  
~~R. H. ...~~