

JAN 25 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT
AN EXTENSIVE STATEWIDE PUEO HABITAT INVENTORY.

1 WHEREAS, across the world, the owl serves as a symbol of
2 wisdom and knowledge; and
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4 WHEREAS, the pueo, or Hawaiian short-eared owl, is an
5 endemic subspecies of the short-eared owl and is thought to have
6 colonized the Hawaiian islands sometime after the arrival of
7 Polynesians; and
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9 WHEREAS, the pueo have a dark mask surrounding large,
10 yellow eyes and, unlike most owls, are mostly active during the
11 day and fly at high altitudes above open, grassy areas; and
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13 WHEREAS, the pueo nest on the ground in grassy areas,
14 laying three to six eggs over a few months, and young pueo
15 depend on their parents for approximately two months; and
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17 WHEREAS, the pueo is known as the "bird of wisdom" and has
18 a special place in Hawaii's culture; and
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20 WHEREAS, the pueo is known for offering guidance and
21 protection and is revered by the ancient Hawaiians as an
22 'aumakua, or ancestral guardian, of many Hawaiian families; and
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24 WHEREAS, throughout the State there are streets, areas,
25 schools, and valleys that use and reference the pueo; and
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27 WHEREAS, pueo were widespread at the end of the nineteenth
28 century but are thought to be declining, especially on the Ewa
29 plain; and
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31 WHEREAS, young pueo nestlings are vulnerable to feral cats,
32 dogs, rats, and mongoose, and the State has listed the species
33 as endangered on Oahu; and
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35 WHEREAS, state- and privately-supported management
36 activities designed to protect other endangered birds and



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1 preserve habitats can benefit the pueo, as there are more pueo
2 on lands where game birds also are common; now, therefore,
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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
6 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to
7 conduct an extensive statewide pueo habitat inventory in
8 collaboration with the University of Hawaii, nonprofit
9 environmental organizations, and other stakeholders; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
12 Natural Resources is requested to submit a report regarding the
13 pueo habitat inventory, including any proposed legislation, to
14 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
15 of the Regular Session of 2018; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
19 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Hawaiian
20 Homes Commission, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of
21 Hawaiian Affairs, President of the University of Hawaii System,
22 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and Commander of Navy
23 Region Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY: Will Eyer
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Per & Rd
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