
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 has a dark mask surrounding large, yellow
10 eyes and, unlike most owls, is mostly active during the day and
11 flies at high altitudes above open, grassy areas; and
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13 WHEREAS, the pueo nests 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 in numbers, especially
29 on the Ewa 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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1 WHEREAS, SunEdison, LLC; Kaheawa Wind Power II; Kahuku Wind
2 Power; Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission; University of
3 Hawaii; United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and United
4 States Department of Agriculture have provided ongoing
5 cooperation with the State in efforts to protect the pueo; and
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7 WHEREAS, state- and privately-supported management
8 activities designed to protect other endangered birds and
9 preserve habitats can benefit the pueo, as there are more pueo
10 on lands where game birds also are common; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
14 that the Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to
15 conduct an extensive statewide pueo habitat inventory, with
16 emphasis on Oahu, in collaboration with the University of
17 Hawaii, nonprofit environmental organizations, and other
18 stakeholders; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
21 Natural Resources is requested to submit an interim report
22 regarding the pueo habitat inventory, including an estimate of
23 the time and resources necessary to complete a statewide pueo
24 population estimate and statewide habitat inventory, to the
25 Legislature no later than one month prior to the convening of
26 the Regular Session of 2018; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the
30 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Hawaiian
31 Homes Commission, Chief Executive Officer of the Office of
32 Hawaiian Affairs, President of the University of Hawaii System,
33 mayors of the several counties, and Commander of Navy Region
34 Hawaii.
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