

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO EXPLORE AND IMPLEMENT A VISITOR PLEDGE OF ALOHA TO EDUCATE AND EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF HAWAII'S ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE AND ENCOURAGE INCREASED RESPECT AND APPRECIATION OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's environment, culture, and people are  
2 unique and assailable resources that are central to the identity  
3 of our island state; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, the islands host eleven out of the fourteen  
6 possible Koppen climate classification subcategories that exist  
7 in the world, each with unique weather characteristics and  
8 delicate ecosystems; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, Hawaii has approximately 8,750 endemic species of  
11 plants, animals, protists, and fungi on the islands and in the  
12 ocean surrounding the islands but is also known as the "The  
13 Endangered Species Capital of the World", due to the fragility  
14 of existence for many of our endemic species; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, these unique attributes of the Hawaiian Islands  
17 should be honored, valued, and protected by the people of  
18 Hawaii, and visitors should be educated and acknowledge their  
19 kuleana to honor and respect Hawaii's environment, culture, and  
20 people; and  
21

22           WHEREAS, the island of Palau has successfully implemented  
23 an educational and cultural pledge, which is a declaration that  
24 each visitor will protect Palau's environment and culture for  
25 future generations; and  
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27           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, A Pledge to Our Keiki has already been  
28 developed by students, and it is based on the Palau pledge; and  
29

30           WHEREAS, A Pledge to Our Keiki reads:  
31



1 "From our elders we have learned we are part of the  
2 environment, not above it. The life, lands, and waters are more  
3 than just our surroundings, they are our family;

4  
5 From our children we learn that Hawaii is not inherited  
6 from our ancestors but borrowed from our future generations;

7  
8 So, when you are welcomed here you become part of this  
9 Ohana, which is responsible for us and our island home. Just as  
10 we, na keiki o ka aina, the children of Hawaii, pledge to care  
11 for these islands, we ask that you make this pledge to us:

12  
13 (1) For a rare and endangered place, where a destructive  
14 foreign species is introduced every day – I will bring  
15 only what is invited and be mindful of where I  
16 explore;

17  
18 (2) For an island community that defines wealth not by  
19 what is kept, but what is shared – I will give my  
20 respect and leave what is not mine to take;

21  
22 (3) For an indigenous culture that has evolved with these  
23 islands, both unique and intertwined in their  
24 existence – I will experience sacred places and  
25 practices with a bowed head and open heart;

26  
27 (4) For this birthplace of aloha that typically welcomes  
28 more visitors than has residents – I will live aloha,  
29 tread lightly amongst this beauty and make it cleaner  
30 than I found it;

31  
32 (5) For a Hawaiian people whose ancestors sailed here  
33 using only the stars to guide them in search of  
34 islands to sustain them – I will learn from your  
35 legacy and support your ongoing voyage toward  
36 sustainability.";

37  
38 now, therefore,

39  
40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
42 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is urged to



1 explore and implement a visitor pledge of Aloha to educate and  
2 explain the importance of Hawaii's environment and culture and  
3 to encourage increased respect for and appreciation of the  
4 Hawaiian Islands; and  
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is requested to adopt  
7 this pledge for visitors to the islands and to encourage  
8 visitors to recognize their kuleana to help protect Hawaii's  
9 environment and culture for future generations; and  
10

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State is urged to determine  
12 how to implement such a pledge in a manner most likely to ensure  
13 every visitor is required to acknowledge it; and  
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and mayor  
17 of each of the counties.  
18  
19  
20

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan', written over a horizontal line.