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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHERIFF DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND HARBORS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, TO COLLABORATE WITH THE DIVISION OF CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN THIS TIME OF NEED.

1           WHEREAS, the Division of Conservation and Resources  
2 Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources is  
3 responsible for enforcement activities of the Department,  
4 including enforcement of all state laws and rules involving  
5 state lands, state parks, historic sites, forest reserves,  
6 aquatic life, wildlife areas, coastal zones, conservation  
7 districts, and state shores, as well as county ordinances  
8 involving county parks; and  
9

10           WHEREAS, the mission of the Division of Conservation and  
11 Resources Enforcement is to uphold the laws that serve to  
12 protect, conserve, and manage Hawaii's unique and limited  
13 natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust  
14 for current and future generations of residents of, and visitors  
15 to, Hawaii nei; and  
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17           WHEREAS, although the Division of Conservation and  
18 Resources Enforcement's jurisdiction covers state-owned lands  
19 from the mountains to three miles offshore, the Division only  
20 employs about one hundred officers statewide; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the State's natural resources are sacred and must  
23 be protected in a manner that will allow them to be preserved  
24 for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come; and  
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26           WHEREAS, as a focal industry for the State, tourism is  
27 largely dependent on the availability and sustainability of the  
28 State's natural resources; and



1           WHEREAS, many of the lands managed by the Department of  
2 Land and Natural Resources are closed to the public as a result  
3 of illegal dumping, pallet burning, illegal camping, vandalism,  
4 and other acts that violate state laws and rules; and  
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6           WHEREAS, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, news  
7 releases have been issued regarding various abuses of the  
8 State's natural resources, including illegal gatherings at Ka'ena  
9 Point State Park on Oahu, with reports of illegal drinking,  
10 littering, beach bonfires, burning of rubber tires, and illegal  
11 campers at the Makua-Keawa'ula and Mokule'ia sections of the  
12 park; the lighting of Christmas tree bonfires at Ahu O Laka; an  
13 unauthorized excavation at Polihale on Kauai, where extensive  
14 subsurface cultural resources, including burials, are located;  
15 and vandals cutting through fencing erected at Makena State Park  
16 on Maui to keep people away from Pu'u Ola'i because of large  
17 beach parties that were being held during the pandemic; and  
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19           WHEREAS, at Pokai Bay, boats illegally harbored close to  
20 shore have dumped their sewage into the water and previously  
21 ignored requests to vacate, while offshore of Kawaihae in Hawaii  
22 County, aquarium fish were illegally harvested; and  
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24           WHEREAS, these areas all fall under the jurisdiction of the  
25 Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement, but because  
26 the Division is understaffed, there is a lack of enforcement  
27 presence; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the Department of Land and Natural Resources has  
30 closed certain access points to Keawa'ula and Ka'ena Point State  
31 Park; now, therefore,  
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33           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
34 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
35 of 2021, that this body urges other state law enforcement  
36 entities, including the Department of the Attorney General,  
37 Sheriff Division of the Department of Public Safety, and Harbors  
38 Division of the Department of Transportation, to collaborate  
39 with the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of  
40 the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support its  
41 mission in this time of need; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
3 Board of Land and Natural Resources, Attorney General, Director  
4 of Public Safety, and Director of Transportation.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 12 2021

