

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO PROVIDE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SOUTH POINT ACCESS
ROAD FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC.

1 WHEREAS, South Point, Ka Lae, serves as a special wahi pana
2 of cultural and spiritual significance for the people of Ka'ū and
3 Hawai'i Island that warrant its protection due to its iwi kūpuna,
4 sacred sites, unique natural resources, and endangered species;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, seven hundred ten acres of Ka Lae are designated
8 as a national historic landmark because it provides "the longest
9 and most complete record of human occupation in the Hawaiian
10 islands"; and

11
12 WHEREAS, unregulated access at Ka Lae has compromised the
13 integrity of its heritage sites and of coastal ecosystems,
14 resulting in miles of deep, wide, and extremely severe erosion
15 scars, ranging from several feet to over eight feet in depth;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, Ka Lae has been accessed freely by the public as a
19 place of recreation despite the trespassing signage erected in
20 the area; and

21
22 WHEREAS, heavy use of recreational trucks, all-terrain
23 vehicles, and motor bikes coupled with the site's exposure to
24 the prevailing winds have caused sedimentation from soil
25 erosion, thus desecrating sacred sites, such as Palahemo and Pu'u
26 Ali'i, and has left the natural and cultural resources of Ka Lae
27 in critical condition; and

28
29 WHEREAS, there is a six-meter-wide asphalt single lane road
30 surface corridor of Ka Lae that runs between the former Morse
31 Field Barracks that is heavily used by individuals coming to
32 hike or drive to Māhana Bay; and



1
 2 WHEREAS, many Ka'ū residents are frustrated with the lack of
 3 progress for the management of Ka Lae resources, and the
 4 disregard for the preservation of natural and cultural sites of
 5 Ka Lae so that the remaining unique ecosystems of the area can
 6 be preserved for future generations; now, therefore,
 7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
 9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
 10 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
 11 Hawaiian Home Lands is requested to provide recommendations for
 12 proposed legislation for the maintenance of the unpaved corridor
 13 between the end of the South Point Access Road and the boat ramp
 14 at Kaulana Bay and Māhana Bay to the Southernmost Point in the
 15 United States; and
 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations are
 18 requested to focus on protecting the natural and cultural
 19 resources along the coast and increasing public health and
 20 safety through the provision of a defined access road along the
 21 coast, as well as improving the access road for emergency
 22 service vehicles; and
 23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
 25 Lands is requested to submit a joint report of their findings
 26 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 27 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 28 the Regular Session of 2022; and
 29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
 31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 32 Hawaiian Homes Commission.
 33
 34
 35

OFFERED BY:


