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2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

PRESS RELEASE

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**Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono reintroduces
Ka‘u Coast Preservation Act**

Washington DC— Congresswoman Hirono announced today that she has reintroduced the Ka‘u Coast Preservation Act (H.R. 1798), which directs the National Park Service to assess the suitability and feasibility of creating a national seashore, national park, or other unit of the National Park Service within the 20,000-acre study area, which extends from Kapao‘o Point to Kahuku Point on the Ka‘u Coast.

The National Park Service’s preliminary evaluation found the resources within the study area to be of national significance, “provided that no future development mars the integrity of its viewsheds or its resources.” The study area includes black and green sand beaches and significant natural, geological, and archaeological features. The Ka‘u coast is home to endangered and threatened species, most notably the hawksbill and green sea turtles, the Hawaiian monk seal, the Hawaiian hawk, the extremely rare Hawaiian black-orange damselfly, and a number of native endemic birds. The area also has some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in the State.

“The spectacular Ka‘u Coast is a natural treasure, and we must protect it,” Hirono said.

“At the same time, I want to be sure that the people of Ka‘u continue to enjoy access to coastal areas for fishing, swimming, and surfing. The study is a way to fully document the resources of the area which will help inform decision-making about the future of this remarkable area.”

An earlier report by the National Park Service recommended that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

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