

MAR 12 2009

---

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL  
BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA  
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN RELATION TO HUMAN AND  
ANIMAL PATHOGENS IMPORTED TO HAWAII FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

1           WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee at the  
2 University of Hawaii at Manoa received grants to conduct  
3 research related to pathogens from the National Institutes of  
4 Health; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee has, for  
7 research purposes, oversight over research on human and animal  
8 pathogens, such as the avian, West Nile, and dengue flu viruses;  
9 and

10  
11           WHEREAS, the pathogens received by the Institutional  
12 Biosafety Committee are controlled microorganisms that were  
13 properly imported into Hawaii through permits granted by the  
14 State; and

15  
16           WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee was not in  
17 compliance with the federal guidelines that are required by all  
18 institutions that receive grants for biomedical research from  
19 the National Institutes of Health; and

20  
21           WHEREAS, the Sunshine Project, a private international  
22 group that seeks controls on biological weapons, appropriately  
23 submitted numerous requests for copies of the minutes from the  
24 Institutional Biosafety Committee; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, in  
27 violation of the National Institutes of Health guidelines, has  
28 failed to comply with the requests from the Sunshine Project;  
29 and

30



1           WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture discovered that  
2 researchers from the University of Hawaii have not submitted  
3 various records related to pathogens that the researchers have  
4 under their control; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, over the past fifty years, due to an inefficient  
7 recordkeeping system, the Department of Agriculture has not  
8 properly recorded the location and inventory of hundreds of  
9 viruses and microbes that were imported to Hawaii for research  
10 purposes; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, a comprehensive management audit of the  
13 Institutional Biosafety Committee and the recordkeeping system  
14 at the Department of Agriculture will help to ensure that the  
15 citizens and visitors of Hawaii are protected from pathogens  
16 that are imported to Hawaii for research purposes; now,  
17 therefore,

18  
19           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the  
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor, with the  
22 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to  
23 conduct a comprehensive management audit of the Institutional  
24 Biosafety Committee at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the  
25 Department of Agriculture to determine the systems, practices,  
26 procedures, and staff training that should be in place to  
27 protect the citizens and visitors in Hawaii and ensure public  
28 accountability with respect to programs involving pathogens  
29 imported to Hawaii for research purposes, such as avian, West  
30 Nile, and dengue viruses; and

31  
32           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor, with the  
33 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to  
34 report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature,  
35 including specific legislative proposals, no later than twenty  
36 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010; and

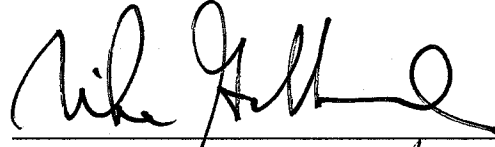
37  
38           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the  
40 State of Hawaii, the Auditor, the President and Chairperson of



# S.C.R. NO. 58

1 the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the  
 2 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of Health,  
 3 and the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.  
 4  
 5  
 6

OFFERED BY:



Norman Sakomf

Michelle N. Sidani

Clarence K. Mikihiro



Amor Mercedes K.

Will Lyra

