
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLABORATE AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the spread of invasive species is one of the
2 greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and
3 the health and lifestyle of the people of Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, invasive species require millions of dollars
6 annually in eradication programs, and have led to crop loss,
7 native species extinction, the destruction of native forests,
8 the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported
9 agricultural crops; and
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11 WHEREAS, invasive species enter Hawaii primarily through
12 air and marine transportation; and
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14 WHEREAS, reports prepared for Congress and the U.S.
15 Department of Agriculture (USDA) state that invasive species
16 enter Hawaii two million times more rapidly than the natural
17 rate, and establish themselves in Hawaii five hundred times more
18 often than any other state in the nation; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000,
21 expressly preempted states from controlling, eradicating, or
22 preventing the introduction or dissemination of a plant pest
23 from any foreign origin; and
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25 WHEREAS, in 2003, inspection of all foreign agricultural
26 commodities other than plants intended for propagation was
27 transferred from the USDA to the U.S. Department of Homeland
28 Security, Customs and Border Protection; and



1 WHEREAS, the U.S. Office of General Counsel advised the
2 USDA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to no longer notify
3 the states regarding information on the entry of invasive
4 species on the grounds of federal preemption; and
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6 WHEREAS, since agricultural inspections have shifted to the
7 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, pest interceptions have
8 dropped drastically resulting in an influx of invasive species
9 to farms and conservation areas across the nation; and
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11 WHEREAS, taro, and other culturally significant and
12 important agricultural crops in Hawaii, are increasingly
13 vulnerable to pest devastation unless the State of Hawaii is
14 provided a method of protecting its resources; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
19 respectfully requests that the USDA and the U.S. Department of
20 Homeland Security:

- 21
- 22 (1) Collaborate and share information with the State of
23 Hawaii to improve detection capabilities and maximize
24 opportunities to prevent invasive species from
25 entering the State; and
26
 - 27 (2) Expedite planning and construction of joint agency
28 inspection facilities at the ports of entry to house
29 the USDA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security,
30 and the state Department of Agriculture (DOA);
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32 and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the USDA enter into a
35 cooperative agreement with the DOA as authorized under Section
36 10201 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2006; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOA is requested to work
39 with federal agencies to effectuate the goals of this measure;
40 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of
3 Agriculture, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, Chairperson of
4 the Board of Agriculture, Director of Transportation, and
5 members of Hawaii's Congressional Delegation.
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