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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATURE CONVENE AN INVESTIGATORY PUBLIC HEARING TO EVALUATE THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM BY EXAMINING STATE AND COUNTY POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT AFFECT THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND MAINTENANCE OF AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

1           WHEREAS, the unchecked spread of invasive species is one of  
2 the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment,  
3 and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people; and  
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5           WHEREAS, invasive pests can cause millions of dollars in  
6 crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction  
7 of native plants, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of  
8 exported agricultural crops; and  
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10           WHEREAS, sufficient support for a biosecurity program is  
11 vital to the public's health and welfare; and  
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13           WHEREAS, in 2008, the Legislature established a biosecurity  
14 program by adding part VI to Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised  
15 Statutes; and  
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17           WHEREAS, one of the actions identified to achieve the  
18 objectives of the biosecurity program is to promote the  
19 production of agricultural commodities in the state to reduce  
20 cargo shipments of imported commodities into the state; and  
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22           WHEREAS, sufficient quantities of water and maintenance of  
23 irrigation infrastructure are essential to support viable  
24 agricultural production on a scale necessary to meet the  
25 objectives of the biosecurity program; and  
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27           WHEREAS, various state and county agencies have regulatory  
28 jurisdictions that impact the availability of water for  
29 agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural  
30 irrigation systems; and



1 WHEREAS, the Legislature wants to ensure that the policies  
2 and practices of these state and county agencies enable and  
3 promote the availability of water for agricultural production  
4 and the maintenance of agricultural systems; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
8 of 2010, that the House of Representatives and the Senate are  
9 requested to convene a joint investigatory public hearing for  
10 the purpose of:  
11

12 (1) Investigating the policies and practices of the  
13 various state and county agencies' permitting,  
14 approvals, and decisions that affect the availability  
15 of water for agricultural production and the  
16 maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems; and  
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18 (2) Identifying any statutory or other amendments that may  
19 be necessary to promote and meet the objectives of the  
20 biosecurity program;

21 and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,  
24 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Health,  
25 Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water  
26 Resource Management, Public Utilities Commission, Agribusiness  
27 Development Corporation, each county mayor, each county  
28 department of water supply, and each county planning department  
29 is requested to participate in the investigatory public hearing;  
30 and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of  
33 Representatives and the Senate President appoint members from  
34 each house of the Legislature to constitute a joint committee  
35 for the purpose of conducting the investigatory public hearing;  
36 and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Speaker of the House  
40 of Representatives; Senate President; mayor of each county;  
41 Chairperson of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Board



1 of Agriculture, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Commission  
2 on Water Resource Management, Hawaiian Home Lands Commission,  
3 Public Utilities Commission; Director of Health, and director of  
4 each county department of water supply and planning department.

