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.

WHEREAS, the unchecked spread of invasive species is one of
the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment,
and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people; and

WHEREAS, invasive pests can cause millions of dollars in
crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction
of native plants, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of
exported agricultural crops; and

WHEREAS, sufficient support for a biosecurity program is
vital to the public's health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Legislature established a biosecurity
program by adding part VI to Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised
Statutes; and

WHEREAS, one of the actions identified to achieve the
objectives of the biosecurity program is to promote the
production of agricultural commodities in the state to reduce
cargo shipments of imported commodities into the state; and

WHEREAS, sufficient quantities of water and maintenance of
irrigation infrastructure are essential to support viable
agricultural production on a scale necessary to meet the
objectives of the biosecurity program; and

WHEREAS, various state and county agencies have regulatory
jurisdictions that impact the availability of water for
agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural
irrigation systems; and
WHEREAS, the Legislature wants to ensure that the policies and practices of these state and county agencies enable and promote the availability of water for agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural systems; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that the House of Representatives and the Senate are requested to convene a joint investigatory public hearing for the purpose of:

(1) Investigating the policies and practices of the various state and county agencies' permitting, approvals, and decisions that affect the availability of water for agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems; and

(2) Identifying any statutory or other amendments that may be necessary to promote and meet the objectives of the biosecurity program;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management, Public Utilities Commission, Agribusiness Development Corporation, each county mayor, each county department of water supply, and each county planning department is requested to participate in the investigatory public hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President appoint members from each house of the Legislature to constitute a joint committee for the purpose of conducting the investigatory public hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Senate President; mayor of each county; Chairperson of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Board
of Agriculture, Board of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management, Hawaiian Home Lands Commission, Public Utilities Commission; Director of Health, and director of each county department of water supply and planning department.