

MAR 07 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species have negative
2 impacts on Hawaii crop and animal production, including
3 declining yields and depressed returns from the cultivation of
4 agricultural products; and

5
6 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species are affecting
7 farmers statewide, and negative impacts are particularly acute
8 where the invasive and endangered species are relatively
9 recently introduced and traditional methods for control have not
10 been established; and

11
12 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species directly affect
13 the growing of crops for local consumption and directly impact
14 Hawaii farmers' ability to supply fresh local crops to people in
15 the State; and

16
17 WHEREAS, while farmers and ranchers have experienced the
18 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species, they don't
19 necessarily have the training to document the economic and
20 agricultural harm being caused by these damaging pests; and

21
22 WHEREAS, documenting the impacts of invasive and endangered
23 species on Hawaii agriculture is necessary to facilitate a
24 unified federal, state, and county effort to address this
25 agricultural threat; now, therefore,

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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
29 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to convene a
30 task force to document and collect data identifying economic,
31 environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation
32 caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
2 following persons or their designated representatives to serve
3 as members of the task force:

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- 5 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, who is
6 requested to serve as Chairperson of the task force;
- 7
- 8 (2) One representative each from the Natural Resources
9 Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Rural
10 Development Agency of the United States Department of
11 Agriculture;
- 12
- 13 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
14 Resources;
- 15
- 16 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
17 Agribusiness Development Corporation;
- 18
- 19 (5) The Director of Health;
- 20
- 21 (6) One representative each from the College of Tropical
22 Agriculture and Human Resources and the Economic
23 Research Organization of the University of Hawaii;
- 24
- 25 (7) One representative each from the Planning Departments
26 of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and the
27 Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and
28 County of Honolulu;
- 29
- 30 (8) One representative each from the Offices of Economic
31 Development of the City and County of Honolulu, County
32 of Maui, and County of Kauai, and the Department of
33 Research and Development of the County of Hawaii;
- 34
- 35 (9) One representative from the Hawaii Invasive Species
36 Council; and
- 37
- 38 (10) One representative from the Hawaii Farm Bureau
39 Federation; and
- 40

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in coordination
42 with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii



1 Department of Agriculture, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife
2 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the College of
3 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension
4 Service and other scientific researchers at the University of
5 Hawaii, and the Invasive Species Committees on each respective
6 island, is requested to conduct population assessments of
7 invasive and endangered species affecting Hawaii's agricultural
8 industry; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in conducting
11 population assessments, is requested to examine the following:
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- 13 (1) Population sizes, geographical ranges, and
14 distributions of invasive and endangered species;
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- 16 (2) Impacts of invasive and endangered species on
17 agricultural crops and on nonagricultural land uses,
18 including botanical gardens, golf courses, and
19 watershed areas;
20
- 21 (3) Whether populations of invasive and endangered species
22 travel from watershed and wildlife habitats to areas
23 populated and cultivated by people in order to feed;
24
- 25 (4) The roosting and shelter areas of invasive and
26 endangered species, in relation to their feeding
27 areas; and
28
- 29 (5) The rates at which populations of invasive and
30 endangered species are increasing or decreasing; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
33 develop best management practices to control, eradicate, or
34 relocate invasive and endangered species from Hawaii's
35 agricultural areas, including:
36




- 37 (1) Protocols to protect farms and ranches from the
38 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species,
39 control invasive species in a humane manner, and
40 assist appropriate wildlife agencies in developing
41 habitats for Hawaii's endangered species; and
42



1 (2) Public education protocols for explaining the negative
 2 impacts of invasive and endangered species on
 3 agriculture and the steps taken by the task force to
 4 address those negative impacts; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 7 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 8 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 9 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 10 2018; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 14 Agriculture; Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation
 15 Service, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, and Under
 16 Secretary of the Rural Development Agency of the United States
 17 Department of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and
 18 Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
 19 Agribusiness Development Corporation; Director of Health; Dean
 20 of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and
 21 the Project Manager of the Economic Research Organization at the
 22 University of Hawaii; Directors of Planning of the Counties of
 23 Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; Director of Planning and Permitting of
 24 the City and County of Honolulu; Executive Director of Economic
 25 Development of the City and County of Honolulu; Director of
 26 Economic Development of the County of Kauai; Coordinator of
 27 Economic Development of the County of Maui; Director of Research
 28 and Development of the County of Hawaii; Co-Chairpersons of the
 29 Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and Executive Director of the
 30 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.
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 32
 33

OFFERED BY: 





S.R. NO. 26


Michelle Tidani

