

MAR 09 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE DETAILING A PLAN TO IMPROVE THE IMPORT PERMIT
PROCESS FOR ALL AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of
2 Agriculture is tasked with preventing the introduction and
3 spread of harmful pests and diseases into the State by
4 regulating domestic import, performing border inspections, and
5 facilitating postborder detection and control of agricultural
6 pests; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch administers the import
9 permit program to control the importation of plants, insects,
10 microorganisms, and non-domestic animals including aquatic
11 livestock; and
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13 WHEREAS, an effective import permit process increases
14 support for local agriculture while protecting the environment
15 and safeguarding the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people
16 from the impacts of invasive species; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the plant quarantine program was established in
19 1888 and has strived to expand its areas of expertise and
20 influence to keep pace with agricultural growth and changes in
21 the State; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the existing Plant Quarantine Branch's
24 administrative rules are not a reflection of the current
25 agricultural status in Hawaii and do not incorporate modern
26 scientific research; and
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28 WHEREAS, an example of outdated provisions is the ongoing
29 protection of the non-viable pineapple industry found in such
30 sections of the Hawaii Administrative Rules as:
31



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- 1 (1) Section 4-70-12, Hawaii Administrative Rules: "Notice
2 of quarantine. The board has determined that there
3 exists serious danger to the pineapple industry of
4 Hawaii from the introduction of thrips (Frankliniella
5 moultoni Hood, Frankliniella shultzei trybom),
6 pineapple borers (Anomocaulus fulvovestitus furn.,
7 Metamasius spp. And Thecla basiliodes), and other
8 insects, and diseases of pineapple bromeliaceous
9 plants, that are not now established in Hawaii."; and
10
- 11 (2) Section 4-70-13(a), Hawaii Administrative Rules: "The
12 introduction into Hawaii of any pineapple plant (any
13 species of the genus Ananas), seed, or other plant
14 parts, is prohibited except by approved permit in
15 accordance with §4-70-14."; and
16

17 WHEREAS, there are reports of several incidents in which
18 those seeking to import aquaculture into the State have not
19 received permits from the Department of Agriculture within the
20 maximum time periods or within a reasonable amount of time after
21 the expiration of the maximum time periods established in
22 section 4-71-4.1, Hawaii Administrative Rules; and
23

24 WHEREAS, section 4-71-4.1(c), Hawaii Administrative Rules,
25 states that, with certain exceptions, "an application request
26 for the issuance of a permit shall be given automatic approval
27 if action is not taken by the department [of agriculture] within
28 the established maximum period of time", and that "[a]fter the
29 expiration of the maximum time period is brought to the
30 attention of the department, the department shall have a
31 reasonable amount of time to issue the permit."; and
32

33 WHEREAS, a Department of Agriculture project focusing on
34 developing a new framework to improve the current import process
35 was presented in March 2018; and
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37 WHEREAS, the proposed framework is a risk-based framework
38 for aquaculture operation siting that utilizes published
39 scientific data and GIS mapping, and is reinforced by industry
40 standard best management practices at the farm level; and
41



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1 WHEREAS, this framework would streamline the import permit
2 process and create a model for all Plant Quarantine Branch
3 import decision making; now, therefore,
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Board of
8 Agriculture is requested to submit a report to the Legislature,
9 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
10 Session of 2019, detailing a plan to improve the current import
11 permit process for all agricultural commodities, including those
12 relating to aquaculture; and
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan include at least:

- 15
- 16 (1) Updating the Plant Quarantine Branch's administrative
17 rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
18 to reflect current industry conditions and needs;
19
 - 20 (2) Adopting the proposed risk-based import framework for
21 aquaculture and expanding it to all import categories;
22
 - 23 (3) Developing best management practices applicable for
24 all agriculture industries for integration into permit
25 conditions; and
26
 - 27 (4) Updating the import permit lists using risk
28 assessments to remove existing species or add new
29 species; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
33 Board of Agriculture and Branch Chief of the Plant Quarantine
34 Branch of the Department of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:




