

MAR 08 2019

---

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE'S POLLINATOR SPECIES,  
THE THREAT THAT SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES POSE TO SUCH SPECIES,  
AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO TAKE MEASURES TO LIMIT  
POLLINATOR EXPOSURE TO NEONICOTINOIDS.

1           WHEREAS, pollinator species, including honeybees and other  
2 native bees, are a vital part of agricultural production in the  
3 State; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, pollinators are critical to valuable specialty  
6 crops, including melons, watermelons, cucumbers, squash,  
7 lychees, mangoes, macadamia nuts, coffee beans, eggplants,  
8 avocados, guavas, herbs; and some flowering plants, including  
9 sunflowers; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, in 2007, the Department of Agriculture estimated  
12 that nearly seventy percent of the State's food crops depend on  
13 pollination by bees and other pollinator species; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, Hawaii boasts a variety of native pollinators,  
16 including honeycreeper birds, Hawaiian yellow-faced bees, and  
17 Kamehameha butterflies; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, many of these iconic species are in peril, and  
20 twenty species of honeycreepers are already extinct; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service added the following seven species of Hawaiian yellow-  
24 faced bees to the federal lists of endangered and threatened  
25 wildlife and plants: *Hylaeus anthracinus*, *Hylaeus longiceps*,  
26 *Hylaeus assimulans*, *Hylaeus facilis*, *Hylaeus hilaris*, *Hylaeus*  
27 *kuakea*, and *Hylaeus mana*; and

28           WHEREAS, these native bee species face an even greater risk  
29 from the use of neonicotinoid insecticides; and

30



1 WHEREAS, scientists and governments around the world have  
2 linked the use of systemic insecticides to the rapid decline of  
3 honeybees and other pollinators and to the deterioration of  
4 pollinator health; and

5

6 WHEREAS, scientists and governments have identified a  
7 particular class of systemic insecticides, called  
8 neonicotinoids, as one significant threat to the existence of  
9 pollinator species; and

10

11 WHEREAS, systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids are  
12 absorbed into treated plants and distributed throughout their  
13 vascular systems, and are highly persistent in the environment;  
14 and

15

16 WHEREAS, despite recognition of their danger, the use of  
17 neonicotinoids is ubiquitous, from seed coating to applications  
18 on fruits and vegetables, grasses and lawns, and backyard  
19 ornamentals; and

20

21 WHEREAS, governmental agencies around the world have taken  
22 action to limit the toxic impacts of neonicotinoids; and

23

24 WHEREAS, in 2013, the European Union voted to suspend the  
25 use of three major neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin,  
26 and thiamethoxam), on certain agricultural crops pending a  
27 review of their safety; and

28

29 WHEREAS, in 2015, the United States Environmental  
30 Protection Agency announced a moratorium on approvals for new  
31 outdoor uses of neonicotinoids; now, therefore,

32

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
34 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, to recognize  
35 that pollinator species, both native and non-native, play a  
36 critical role in the State's local food production, agricultural  
37 economy, and natural ecosystems; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to recognize that restricting  
39 exposure of the State's honeybees, native bees, insects, birds,  
40 and other pollinators to neonicotinoid insecticides is necessary  
41 to protect these species and the State's agricultural economy  
42 and natural ecosystems; and

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture are urged to take measures, as authorized by law, to limit pollinator exposure to neonicotinoids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture are requested to submit a report of their specific measures taken, and any proposed legislation necessary to limit pollinator exposure to neonicotinoids, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

*Mike Galt*

*Anna Mercedes K.*

*Randy H. Bell*

*Michelle Sidari*

*David...*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*AC. Arch. Agana*

*[Signature]*

*Proou R. Pitt*

*[Signature]*

*Clarence K. Nishida*

