

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND ITS QUARANTINE  
FACILITIES OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.

1           WHEREAS, responding quickly to newly detected invasive  
2 species can often prevent the species from becoming firmly  
3 established, saving taxpayers money in the long-term; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
6 has stated that foreign pests and disease already cost the  
7 United States' economy tens of billions of dollars annually in  
8 lower crop values, eradication programs, emergency payments to  
9 farmers, and increased costs for food and other natural  
10 resources; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the recent detection of coffee leaf rust fungus  
13 has shown that the existing facilities are unable to deal with  
14 the demand for disease resistant stock; and  
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16           WHEREAS, with the current spread of coffee leaf rust  
17 fungus, State agencies lack the resources, such as quarantine  
18 facilities and response mechanisms, to deal with these newly  
19 identified threats and may be missing opportunities to eliminate  
20 them; and  
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22           WHEREAS, because the introduction of coffee leaf rust  
23 fungus as an alien invasive species poses serious problems to  
24 the State's ecosystem, any introduction of alien invasive  
25 species via the airports or any other entry points throughout  
26 the State may lead to significant cumulative impacts; and  
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28           WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of  
29 Agriculture is tasked with preventing the introduction and  
30 spread of harmful pests and diseases into the State by  
31 regulating domestic import, performing border inspections, and  
32 facilitating post-border detection and control of agricultural  
33 pests; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of  
3 Agriculture is a critical component in meeting the threat of  
4 invasive species entering Hawai'i and spreading throughout  
5 Hawai'i through the State's ports of entry; and  
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7 WHEREAS, even with the expansion of existing facilities  
8 with a \$1,000,000 increase over two years, the increase in  
9 quarantine capacity needed to meet current demands will likely  
10 require an additional two to three years, which may not be  
11 timely enough to adequately address the immediate threat to the  
12 industry, allowing invasive species to become established in the  
13 State and making mitigation efforts more protracted and  
14 expensive; and  
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16 WHEREAS, the USDA is currently allocating \$70,000,000 to  
17 support three hundred eighty-three projects under the Plant Pest  
18 and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and the  
19 National Clean Plant Network Programs under the authority of the  
20 Plant Protection Act Section 7721 to strengthen the nation's  
21 infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance,  
22 identification, threat mitigation, safeguard the nursery  
23 production system, and respond to plant pest emergencies in  
24 ensuring the availability of pathogen-free, disease-free, and  
25 pest-free certified material; and  
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27 WHEREAS, since 2009, the USDA has supported more than four  
28 thousand four hundred projects and provided nearly \$670,000,000  
29 in funding through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and  
30 Disaster Prevention Program, allowing the USDA and its partners  
31 to quickly detect and rapidly respond to invasive plant pests  
32 and diseases; and  
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34 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not taken  
35 advantage of federal funding opportunities to increase the  
36 capacity to appropriately quarantine regulated plant materials  
37 that will benefit growers, which would enhance its ability to  
38 prevent the entry of invasive species through increased  
39 screening and enforcement abilities; now, therefore,  
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41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
42 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the



1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
2 Agriculture is urged to expand its quarantine facilities under  
3 the jurisdiction of the Plant Quarantine Branch; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
6 is urged to apply for federal funding under the USDA through its  
7 Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention  
8 Program and the National Clean Plant Network Program under the  
9 authority of the Plant Protection Act Section 7721 for the  
10 purposes of expanding its quarantine facilities to increase  
11 screening and enforcement abilities throughout the State; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
15 Board of Agriculture.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

