
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



1 facilitating post-border detection and control of agricultural
2 pests; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of
5 Agriculture is a critical component in meeting the threat of
6 invasive species entering Hawai'i and spreading throughout
7 Hawai'i through the State's ports of entry; and

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9 WHEREAS, even with the expansion of existing Department of
10 Agriculture facilities with a \$1,000,000 increase over two
11 years, the increase in quarantine capacity needed to meet
12 current demands will likely require an additional two to three
13 years, which may not be timely enough to adequately address the
14 immediate threat to the industry, allowing invasive species to
15 become established in the State and making mitigation efforts
16 more protracted and expensive; and

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18 WHEREAS, the USDA is currently allocating \$70,000,000 to
19 support three hundred eighty-three projects under the Plant Pest
20 and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and the
21 National Clean Plant Network Programs under the authority of the
22 Plant Protection Act Section 7721 which strengthens the nation's
23 infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance,
24 identification, threat mitigation, safeguard the nursery
25 production system, and respond to plant pest emergencies in
26 ensuring the availability of pathogen-free, disease-free, and
27 pest-free certified material; and

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29 WHEREAS, since 2009, the USDA has supported more than four
30 thousand four hundred projects and provided nearly \$670,000,000
31 in funding through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and
32 Disaster Prevention Program, allowing the USDA and its partners
33 to quickly detect and rapidly respond to invasive plant pests
34 and diseases; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not taken
37 advantage of federal funding opportunities to increase the
38 capacity to appropriately quarantine regulated plant materials
39 that will benefit growers, which would enhance its ability to
40 prevent the entry of invasive species through increased
41 screening and enforcement abilities; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Agriculture is urged to expand its quarantine facilities under
5 the jurisdiction of the Plant Quarantine Branch and determine
6 the cost of recommended quarantine facilities in affected areas;
7 and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
10 is urged to apply for federal funding under the USDA through its
11 Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention
12 Program and the National Clean Plant Network Program under the
13 authority of the Plant Protection Act Section 7721 for the
14 purposes of expanding its quarantine facilities to increase
15 screening and enforcement abilities throughout the State; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
19 Board of Agriculture.

