

MAR 07 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A FERAL GAME MAMMAL WORKING GROUP TO FIND, SOLICIT, AND DISTRIBUTE GRANTS FOR THE CONTROL OF FERAL GAME MAMMALS.

1 WHEREAS, feral game mammals and, in particular, feral
2 ungulates, have long been recognized as a significant threat to
3 the integrity and health of native ecosystems in Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, feral ungulates jeopardize the component species
6 that comprise native habitats, making the management of feral
7 ungulates a high priority for the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, many rare and endangered plants occur in otherwise
10 inaccessible areas, but goats are adept climbers and can access
11 steep and rugged terrain to accelerate erosion and spread weeds
12 in these fragile environments; and
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14 WHEREAS, mouflon sheep graze on native vegetation such as
15 mamane-naio forests on Mauna Kea, which serve as the habitat and
16 the main food source for the Palila, a Hawaiian honeycreeper
17 endemic to the island of Hawaii; and
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19 WHEREAS, feral pigs can quickly destroy eighty percent of
20 plant ground cover; commonly uproot native tree ferns to eat
21 their starchy interiors; and dig up soil for wallows, creating
22 cavities in which water can collect that then become breeding
23 grounds for mosquitos, which harbor diseases such as avian
24 malaria (*Plasmodium relictum*) and bird pox (*Avipoxvirus*) to
25 which native birds have little or no natural immunity; and
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27 WHEREAS, Axis deer populations in Maui County have
28 ballooned to more than sixty thousand, and their migration into
29 agricultural and urbanized areas create the potential for
30 spreading diseases to human populations; and
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1 WHEREAS, to minimize or prevent these impacts to Hawaii's
2 ecosystems and communities, funds must first be identified and
3 secured for a successful feral game mammal control plan to be
4 implemented; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
8 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
9 Agriculture is requested to convene a Feral Game Mammal Working
10 Group to find, solicit, and distribute grants for the control of
11 feral game mammals to address the environmental, health, and
12 safety concerns that they pose in the State; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are
15 requested to serve as members of the Feral Game Mammal Working
16 Group:
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- 18 (1) A member of the Department of Agriculture Animal
19 Industry Division, selected by the Chairperson of the
20 Board of Agriculture;
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- 22 (2) A member of the Department of Land and Natural
23 Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, selected
24 by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
25 Resources;
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- 27 (3) A community member who resides in an area impacted by
28 feral game mammal activity to be selected by the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
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- 31 (4) A community member who resides in an area impacted by
32 feral game mammal activity to be selected by the
33 President of the Senate; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
37 Board of Agriculture and Chairperson of the Board of Land and
38 Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY: _____

