
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK FEDERAL
FUNDING TO BE USED FOR PROGRAMS AND MEASURES INTENDED TO
PREVENT AND FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, preserving and protecting our natural environment
2 and resources are critical to ensure a promising future for our
3 residents, especially our children; and
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5 WHEREAS, invasive alien species, such as coqui frogs, brown
6 tree snakes, and other invasive species, represent dangerous
7 threats to Hawaii's fragile and complex ecosystem; and
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9 WHEREAS, for example, coqui frogs, which have reproduced at
10 a frightening rate with distinct populations numbering over 270
11 on the island of Hawaii alone, are not only a nuisance but, if
12 left unchecked, may also affect the tourism industry and disrupt
13 native bird populations that compete with the frogs for insect
14 prey; and
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16 WHEREAS, in the past, Hawaii's Congressional delegation has
17 worked to secure federal funds for the control and eradication
18 of the brown tree snake, which has been directly responsible for
19 the extinction or local extirpation of 12 of 25 native forest
20 bird and lizard species in Guam; and
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22 WHEREAS, federal moneys received were used for various
23 control measures, research, prevention, and eradication of the
24 brown tree snake, which has significantly reduced the threat
25 that the brown tree snake posed to Hawaii's natural ecosystem
26 and economy; and
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28 WHEREAS, Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, established
29 the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council), a body that
30 provides leadership, direction, and coordination for invasive
31 species prevention and eradication programs statewide; and
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1 WHEREAS, prior to the Council, the Coordinating Group on
2 Alien Pest Species, primarily comprised of management-level
3 participants from every major federal, state, county and private
4 agency and organizations, conducted various initiatives to
5 combat invasive species, including media campaigns, research,
6 improving coordination and collaboration among agencies, and
7 facilitating the formation of invasive species committees on all
8 major islands; and
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10 WHEREAS, funding for the activities and programs of the
11 Council, the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species and the
12 invasive species committees come from a combination of federal,
13 state, and private sources; and
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15 WHEREAS, however, their efforts have been weakened by
16 recent actions of the federal government that have drastically
17 reduced the resources necessary to effectively combat invasive
18 species and may jeopardize existing programs like the
19 eradication efforts under way and planned for controlling coqui
20 frog populations on the island of Hawaii; and
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22 WHEREAS, actions like these deprive Hawaii of the funding
23 desperately needed to protect the native environment and
24 preserve the native ecosystem; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that members of Hawaii's
29 Congressional delegation are requested to renew their efforts in
30 obtaining federal funding for the prevention and eradication of
31 invasive species in Hawaii; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of Hawaii's
34 Congressional delegation are urged to use the same vigor and
35 commitment that they have used in obtaining funding for the
36 brown tree snake; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
40 Congressional delegation.

