
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED
HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES ACT.

1 WHEREAS, despite the efforts of more than twenty state,
2 federal, and private agencies, invasive species enter Hawaii at
3 a rate that is approximately two million times more rapid than
4 the natural rate; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Federal Office of Technology Assessment
7 declared Hawaii's invasive species problem to be the worst in
8 the nation; and

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10 WHEREAS, a federal quarantine is imposed in Hawaii on the
11 movement of all passengers and cargo leaving Hawaii en route to
12 mainland United States to protect the mainland from identified
13 insect pests; and

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15 WHEREAS, the majority of products that are shipped or
16 carried into Hawaii from the mainland and elsewhere are not
17 inspected before arriving in our State; and

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19 WHEREAS, in 1994, nearly eighty percent of the invasive
20 species that the State was able to intercept arrived by aircraft
21 as cargo, in passenger bags, or as stowaways on the aircraft
22 itself; and

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24 WHEREAS, ships and shipped cargo accounted for another
25 fifteen percent of the intercepted invasive species that year;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, postal inspectors believe currently that the mail
29 may account for as much as twenty percent of the plant and
30 animal pests getting into Hawaii each year; and

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32 WHEREAS, the invasion of Hawaii by insects, disease
33 organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests is the single greatest



1 threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health
2 and lifestyle of the State's residents; and

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4 WHEREAS, millions of dollars were spent on post-arrival
5 efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate the spread of
6 invasive species throughout the State; and

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8 WHEREAS, Formosan ground termites cause nearly \$150,000,000
9 each year in treatment and damage repair costs; and

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11 WHEREAS, the agricultural industry estimates that it loses
12 \$300,000,000 each year in revenue from potential markets that
13 refuse Hawaii exports because of invasive fruit flies that have
14 infested many island crops; and

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16 WHEREAS, the coqui frog has infested numerous areas of the
17 State affecting people's health, property values, and tourism;
18 and

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20 WHEREAS, the State needs to take more aggressive action to
21 prevent invasive species from entering Hawaii; and

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23 WHEREAS, the State should institute an incoming quarantine
24 and inspection regime comparable to the outgoing regime that
25 exists for the movement of people and cargo from Hawaii to the
26 mainland; now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, to support the enactment of
31 the federal Hawaii Invasive Species Prevention Act, H.R. 3468,
32 currently pending in Congress, that would establish certain
33 federal findings and grant authority for Hawaii to institute an
34 incoming quarantine and inspection regime comparable to the
35 regime that exists for the movement of people and cargo from
36 Hawaii to the mainland; 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, the Secretary of the United States
41 Department of Agriculture, the Governor, the Chairperson of the



1 Department of Agriculture, the Director of Transportation, and
2 the Chairperson of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

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5 Bob Hegre
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