

MAR - 3 2006

SENATE 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
34 threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health
35 and lifestyle of the State's residents; and

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