
SENATE 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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33 WHEREAS, prior to the Council, the Coordinating Group on
34 Alien Pest Species, primarily comprised of management-level
35 participants from every major federal, state, county and private



1 agency and organizations, conducted various initiatives to
2 combat invasive species, including media campaigns, research,
3 improving coordination and collaboration among agencies, and
4 facilitating the formation of invasive species committees on all
5 major islands; and
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7 WHEREAS, funding for the activities and programs of the
8 Council, the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species and the
9 invasive species committees come from a combination of federal,
10 state, and private sources; and
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12 WHEREAS, however, their efforts have been weakened by
13 recent actions of the federal government that have drastically
14 reduced the resources necessary to effectively combat invasive
15 species and may jeopardize existing programs like the
16 eradication efforts under way and planned for controlling coqui
17 frog populations on the island of Hawaii; and
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19 WHEREAS, actions like these deprive Hawaii of the funding
20 desperately needed to protect the native environment and
21 preserve the native ecosystem; now, therefore,
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
25 that members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation are requested
26 to renew their efforts in obtaining federal funding for the
27 prevention and eradication of invasive species in Hawaii; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of Hawaii's
30 Congressional delegation are urged to use the same vigor and
31 commitment that they have used in obtaining funding for the
32 brown tree snake; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
36 Congressional delegation.

