
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND
SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CONCERNS REGARDING
THE INSPECTION OF PLANTS AND PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN
COUNTRIES TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the threat of invasive species is an ongoing
2 concern that requires vigilant inspection and control of
3 unwanted pests at all points of entry into the state; and
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5 WHEREAS, the federal Plant Protection Act of 2000 preempts
6 any state from regulating foreign commerce to "prevent the
7 introduction or dissemination of a biological control organism,
8 plant pest, or noxious weed"; and
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10 WHEREAS, consequently, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture
11 no longer inspects certain products and produce, including
12 coffee imported from foreign countries that may carry harmful
13 pests into the state; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security
16 transferred the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA)
17 responsibility for inspecting plant products from foreign
18 countries to the federal Customs and Border Protection agency;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the elimination of the USDA's inspection authority
22 has left airport passenger and baggage entry ways more
23 vulnerable to penetration by invasive species; and
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25 WHEREAS, invasive species concerns should be addressed by
26 proactive inspection and regulation for both incoming and
27 outgoing products and produce; and



1 WHEREAS, communication and coordination between federal and
2 state inspectors need to be clarified and improved by
3 implementing a concerted federal and state invasive species
4 action plan to provide the state with adequate protection from
5 invasive species; now, therefore,

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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
9 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's
10 Congressional Delegation is requested to introduce and support
11 federal legislation concerning the inspection of plants and
12 products from foreign countries, including the establishment of
13 a federal and state invasive species action plan, to prevent the
14 introduction of invasive species from entering into the state;
15 and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of
18 Agriculture is requested to work with its federal counterparts
19 to effectuate this Concurrent Resolution; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to members of Hawaii's
23 Congressional Delegation, Secretary of the United States
24 Department of Agriculture, and the Chairperson of the Board of
25 Agriculture.

