
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO START A PILOT PROJECT BY WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH THE LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HAWAII, HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, FARM BUREAU FEDERATION OF HAWAII, AND CONSERVATION GROUPS TO ASSESS THE INVASIVE POTENTIAL VERSUS THE BENEFIT OF NEW AND EXISTING PLANTS AND RESTRICT THE USE AND ENTRY OF PLANTS WITH MORE RISK THAN BENEFIT.

1 WHEREAS, one of the major threats to Hawaii's native
2 species and forests is the rampant spread of a large number of
3 invasive alien plant species across the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, alien species have become invasive in Hawaii's
6 environment because natural predators or other biological
7 mechanisms that kept those species manageable in their former
8 habitat is missing in Hawaii's environment; and
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10 WHEREAS, invasive species arrive in Hawaii for a variety of
11 reasons, but by far the most important reason for introduction
12 is horticultural use for ornamental purposes, accounting for
13 approximately seventy per cent of all documented invasive plant
14 species in the State; and
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16 WHEREAS, agriculture, landscape, forestry, and conservation
17 interests in the State are fighting to slow the invasion of
18 alien species that are spreading from residential and commercial
19 settings into agricultural areas and native forests; and
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21 WHEREAS, Hawaii, which allows in all plants except those on
22 restricted lists, unlike New Zealand, which has a comprehensive
23 bio-security law that restricts all plants until cleared by a
24 weed risk benefit assessment process, should embrace and adopt a
25 process similar to New Zealand; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
3 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
4 Agriculture is requested to work collaboratively with the
5 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, Hawaii Forest Industry
6 Association, Farm Bureau Federation of Hawaii, and conservation
7 groups to begin a pilot program to assess the benefit versus the
8 invasive potential of new and existing plants and restrict the
9 use and entry of plants with more risk than benefit by placing
10 them on the State restricted plant list; and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
13 is requested to adopt a system similar to New Zealand's National
14 Plant Pest Accord, a cooperative agreement between industry and
15 government consisting of a consultative group, a technical
16 advisory group, and steering group to work with the Department;
17 and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that:

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21 (1) The consultative group be comprised of eight concerned
22 individuals and stakeholders who may nominate species
23 for the restricted plant list, provided that any
24 person may submit a species for nomination
25 consideration;
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27 (2) The technical advisory group be comprised of eight
28 appointed government officials, four appointed by the
29 Department of Land and Natural Resources and four
30 appointed by the Department of Agriculture, who
31 provide independent risk versus benefit assessment of
32 the nominated species; and
- 33
34 (3) The steering group, the decision making body that has
35 accord oversight, be comprised of eight members of
36 which five members are government officials appointed
37 by the Governor and three members, one each from the
38 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, the Hawaii
39 Forest Industry Association, and the Hawaii Farm
40 Bureau Federation, are appointed by the State's
41 agricultural industry; and
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1 (4) Decisions by the groups be made on a consensus basis;
 2 and

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 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
 5 form the different advisory groups and implement the pilot
 6 project by January 1, 2010, and further to report to the
 7 Legislature on the project on or prior to December 31, 2010; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 11 Board of Agriculture, who in turn is requested to transmit
 12 copies to the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, Hawaii
 13 Forest Industry of Hawaii, and the Farm Bureau Federation of
 14 Hawaii.

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MAR 18 2009