
HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY ON THE SIDE EFFECTS OF CANE BURNING.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company (HC&S) plays
2 a vital role in Hawaii's sugar cane business, HC&S frequently
3 burns cane in Haleakala and in the vicinity of North Kihei, and
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5 WHEREAS, the ash (known locally as Maui snow) from cane burning
6 generally only affects Maalaea and North Kihei, however, wind
7 causes smoke and ash to blow southward, and in other directions
8 depending upon which way the wind is blowing, and
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10 WHEREAS, although barely noticeable to a short term visitor to
11 north or central Kihei, a permanent resident will find smoke and
12 ash residue from cane burning a constant nuisance 24 hours each
13 day, and,
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15 WHEREAS, HC&S frequently alters its schedule to burn, chop &
16 haul acreage on the island an intermixing of different ages of
17 fields close to each other results in frequent burning, and
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19 WHEREAS, even though cane burning occurs in Haleakala at night
20 before sunrise, cane burning does occur at any time of the year,
21 and
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23 WHEREAS, due to the recent migration of people to Kihei, many of
24 its resident have begun complaining of health related illnesses
25 such as, asthma, congestion, coughing, insomnia, bloody noses,
26 sinus infections, migraine headaches, memory loss, and 'allergy
27 like' symptoms such as sneezing and watery eyes, and
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29 WHEREAS, the health effects are so severe to some residents that
30 they have begun to relocate away from Kihei. In at least one
31 example, a family living in Kihei Villages have a son who
32 developed a rare form of pneumonia related to asthma, was
33 prescribed three forms of medication to prevent ashtma attacks,

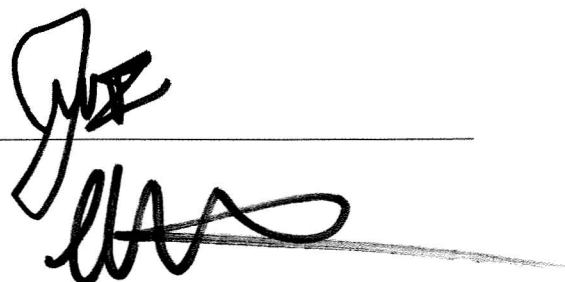


1 ultimately moved to the mainland where it was determined from
2 prior visits there that the child no longer suffered from asthma
3 attacks and was no longer required to take medication, and
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5 BE IT RESOLVED THAT while we recognize sugar cane production and
6 distribution as an important agricultural source of revenue to
7 the state of Hawaii, we also recognize the need for a study of
8 environmentally safe alternative methods of clearing cane, and
9 the possibility of using windmills or voltaic solar panels along
10 the Mokulele Highway from Kihei to Pu'unene to direct smoke away
11 from local residents.
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2009, that this body hereby requests the Department of
16 Agriculture to work with the community to study the side effects
17 of cane burning.
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19
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joe' followed by a stylized flourish, written over a horizontal line.

MAR 18 2009

