
HOUSE 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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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2009, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to work
30 collaboratively with the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii,



1 Hawaii Forest Industry Association, Farm Bureau Federation of
2 Hawaii, and conservation groups to begin a pilot program to
3 assess the benefit versus the invasive potential of new and
4 existing plants and restrict the use and entry of plants with
5 more risk than benefit by placing them on the State restricted
6 plant list; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
9 is requested to adopt a system similar to New Zealand's National
10 Plant Pest Accord, a cooperative agreement between industry and
11 government consisting of a consultative group, a technical
12 advisory group, and steering group to work with the Department;
13 and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests that:
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- 17 (1) The consultative group be comprised of eight concerned
18 individuals and stakeholders who may nominate species
19 for the restricted plant list, provided that any
20 person may submit a species for nomination
21 consideration;
22
- 23 (2) The technical advisory group be comprised of eight
24 appointed government officials, four appointed by the
25 Department of Land and Natural Resources and four
26 appointed by the Department of Agriculture, who
27 provide independent risk versus benefit assessment of
28 the nominated species; and
29
- 30 (3) The steering group, the decision making body that has
31 accord oversight, be comprised of eight members of
32 which five members are government officials appointed
33 by the Governor and three members, one each from the
34 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, the Hawaii
35 Forest Industry Association, and the Hawaii Farm
36 Bureau Federation, are appointed by the State's
37 agricultural industry; and
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- 39 (4) Decisions by the groups be made on a consensus basis;
40 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
2 form the different advisory groups and implement the pilot
3 project by January 1, 2010, and further to report to the
4 Legislature on the project on or prior to December 31, 2010; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
8 Agriculture, who in turn is requested to transmit copies to the
9 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, Hawaii Forest Industry of
10 Hawaii, and the Farm Bureau Federation of Hawaii.
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