

MAR 16 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLABORATE AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the spread of invasive species is one of the
2 greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and
3 the health and lifestyle of the people of Hawaii; and
4

5 WHEREAS, invasive species require millions of dollars
6 annually in eradication programs, and have led to crop loss,
7 native species extinction, the destruction of native forests,
8 the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported
9 agricultural crops; and
10

11 WHEREAS, invasive species enter Hawaii primarily through
12 air and marine transportation; and
13

14 WHEREAS, reports prepared for Congress and the U.S.
15 Department of Agriculture state that invasive species enter
16 Hawaii two million times more rapidly than the natural rate, and
17 establish themselves in Hawaii five hundred times more often
18 than any other state in the nation; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000,
21 expressly preempted states from controlling, eradicating, or
22 preventing the introduction or dissemination of a plant pest
23 from any foreign origin; and
24

25 WHEREAS, in 2003, inspection of all foreign agricultural
26 commodities other than plants intended for propagation was
27 transferred from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the U.S.
28 Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection;
29 and
30



1 WHEREAS, the U.S. Office of General Counsel advised the
2 U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs and Border
3 Protection to no longer notify the states regarding information
4 on the entry of invasive species on the grounds of federal
5 preemption; and
6

7 WHEREAS, since agricultural inspections have shifted to the
8 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, pest interceptions have
9 dropped drastically resulting in an influx of invasive species
10 to farms and conservation areas across the nation; and
11

12 WHEREAS, taro, and other culturally significant and
13 important agricultural crops in Hawaii, are increasingly
14 vulnerable to pest devastation unless the State of Hawaii is
15 provided a method of protecting its resources; now, therefore,
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature
20 respectfully requests that the U.S. Department of Agriculture
21 and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:
22

23 (1) Collaborate and share information with the State of
24 Hawaii to improve detection capabilities and maximize
25 opportunities to prevent invasive species from
26 entering the State; and
27

28 (2) Expedite planning and construction of joint agency
29 inspection facilities at the ports of entry to house
30 the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S.
31 Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of
32 Agriculture; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
35 is requested to work with federal agencies to effectuate the
36 goals of this measure; and
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of
40 Agriculture, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the
41 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of
42



1 Transportation, and members of Hawaii's Congressional
2 Delegation.

3
4
5

OFFERED BY:

Ufa Hae

