
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATURE CONVENE AN INVESTIGATORY PUBLIC HEARING TO EVALUATE THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM BY EXAMINING STATE AND COUNTY POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT AFFECT THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND MAINTENANCE OF AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

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

5 WHEREAS, invasive pests can cause millions of dollars in
6 crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction
7 of native plants, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of
8 exported agricultural crops; and
9

10 WHEREAS, sufficient support for a biosecurity program is
11 vital to the public's health and welfare; and
12

13 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Legislature established a biosecurity
14 program by adding part VI to Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised
15 Statutes; and
16

17 WHEREAS, one of the actions identified to achieve the
18 objectives of the biosecurity program is to promote the
19 production of agricultural commodities in the State to reduce
20 cargo shipments of imported commodities into the State; and
21

22 WHEREAS, sufficient quantities of water and maintenance of
23 irrigation infrastructure are essential to support viable
24 agricultural production on a scale necessary to meet the
25 objectives of the biosecurity program; and
26

27 WHEREAS, various state and county agencies have regulatory
28 jurisdictions that impact the availability of water for
29 agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural
30 irrigation systems; and
31



1 WHEREAS, the Legislature wants to ensure that the policies
2 and practices of these state and county agencies enable and
3 promote the availability of water for agricultural production
4 and the maintenance of agricultural systems; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2010, that the House of Representatives and the Senate
9 convene a joint investigatory public hearing for the purpose of:
10

11 (1) Investigating the policies and practices of the
12 various state and county agencies' permitting,
13 approvals, and decisions that affect the availability
14 of water for agricultural production and the
15 maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems; and
16

17 (2) Identifying any statutory or other amendments that may
18 be necessary to promote and meet the objectives of the
19 biosecurity program; and
20

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
22 Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources,
23 Commission on Water Resource Management, Public Utilities
24 Commission, Agribusiness Development Corporation, each county
25 department of water supply, and each county planning department
26 is requested to participate in the investigatory public hearing;
27 and
28

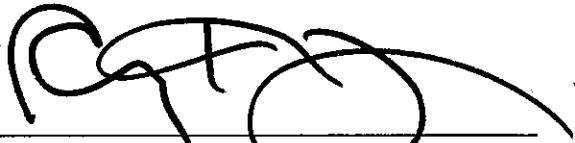



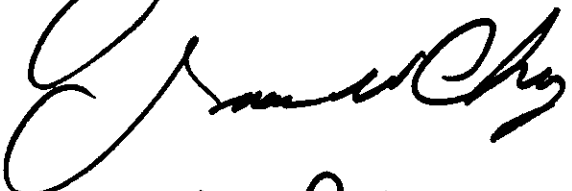

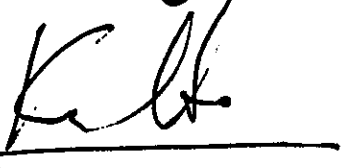
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives and the Senate President appoint members from
31 each respective body to constitute a joint committee for the
32 purpose of conducting the investigatory public hearing; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Speaker of the House
36 of Representatives; Senate President; the mayor of each county;
37 the Chairperson of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, the
38 Board of Agriculture, the Board of Land and Natural Resources,



1 the Commission on Water Resource Management, and the Public
2 Utilities Commission, respectively; the Director of Health; and
3 the director of each county department of water supply and
4 planning department.
5
6
7

OFFERED BY:

MAR 08 2010

