
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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
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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
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10 WHEREAS, sufficient support for a biosecurity program is
11 vital to the public's health and welfare; and
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13 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Legislature established a biosecurity
14 program by adding part VI to Chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised
15 Statutes; and
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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
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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
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27 WHEREAS, various state and county agencies have regulatory
28 jurisdictions that impact the availability of water for



1 agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural
2 irrigation systems; and

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

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
11 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the House of
12 Representatives and the Senate are requested to convene a joint
13 investigatory public hearing for the purpose of:

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15 (1) Investigating the policies and practices of the
16 various state and county agencies' permitting,
17 approvals, and decisions that affect the availability
18 of water for agricultural production and the
19 maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems; and
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21 (2) Identifying any statutory or other amendments that may
22 be necessary to promote and meet the objectives of the
23 biosecurity program;

24 and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
27 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Health,
28 Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water
29 Resource Management, Public Utilities Commission, Agribusiness
30 Development Corporation, each county mayor, each county
31 department of water supply, and each county planning department
32 is requested to participate in the investigatory public hearing;
33 and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives and the Senate President appoint members from
37 each house of the Legislature to constitute a joint committee
38 for the purpose of conducting the investigatory public hearing;
39 and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
42 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Speaker of
43 the House of Representatives; Senate President; mayor of each
44 county; Chairperson of the Agribusiness Development Corporation,



- 1 Board of Agriculture, Board of Land and Natural Resources,
- 2 Commission on Water Resource Management, Hawaiian Home Lands
- 3 Commission, Public Utilities Commission; Director of Health, and
- 4 director of each county Department of Water Supply and Planning
- 5 Department.

