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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES, TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE CURRENT LAWS, RULES, AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE REGARDING HIGH RISK PLANTS REQUIRING INTERVENTION.

1           WHEREAS, one of the major threats to Hawaii's agricultural,  
2 horticultural, aquacultural, and livestock industries, forest and  
3 recreational areas, and conservation districts of the State is  
4 invasive plants; and

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6           WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture identifies and  
7 regulates these threats by maintaining a restricted plants list;  
8 and

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10           WHEREAS, the restricted plants list has not been changed  
11 since its inception due to the time-consuming, costly, and  
12 cumbersome process of rulemaking required to get plants on or off  
13 the list; and

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15           WHEREAS, Hawaii, which allows importation of plants except  
16 those on the restricted plant list, needs a process by which  
17 to quickly intervene when high-threat plants are identified, as  
18 determined by a risk assessment based on the benefit versus the  
19 invasive potential; and

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21           WHEREAS, allowing a streamlined process for adding to and  
22 removing from the restricted plant list or lists will add a  
23 necessary tool to effectively and efficiently manage any serious  
24 threat with a faster response; now, therefore,

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26           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-sixth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
28 of 2011, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
29 Agriculture, in cooperation with the University of Hawaii



1 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, is  
2 requested to convene a working group to evaluate the current  
3 laws, rules, and standards of practice regarding high risk  
4 plants requiring intervention; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
7 the working group be composed of the following members:

- 8  
9 (1) Two representatives of the Hawaii Invasive Species  
10 Council;
- 11  
12 (2) A representative from:
- 13  
14 (A) The University of Hawaii College of Tropical  
15 Agriculture and Human Resources representative;
- 16  
17 (B) The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species;
- 18  
19 (C) The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii Chapter;
- 20  
21 (D) The Conservation Council for Hawaii;
- 22  
23 (E) The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and
- 24  
25 (F) The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii; and
- 26  
27 (3) One member each appointed by the President of the  
28 Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
29 Representatives; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
32 the members appointed by the President of the Senate and the  
33 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall serve as co-chairs;  
34 and

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests that  
37 the working group:

- 38  
39 (1) Evaluate the current regulations, rules, and standards  
40 of practice regarding the adding and removing of items  
41 from the restricted plant list;
- 42  
43 (2) Determine a more effective and efficient process for  
44 adding or removing plants to or from the restricted



1 plants list, to supplement the existing rulemaking  
2 process, including the risk evaluation and assessment  
3 of the benefit versus the invasive potential of new and  
4 existing plants;

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6 (3) Recommend a process by which the Board of Agriculture, a  
7 board member, government agency, or industry or  
8 conservation experts may recommend the designation of a  
9 plant species as a restricted plant, including data  
10 type and collection sufficiency;

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12 (4) Discuss whether there is a need for multiple restricted  
13 plant lists, based on risk or threat assessments,  
14 geographical criteria, specific purposes or conditions  
15 or other relevant categories; and

16  
17 (5) Investigate any other relevant issues pertaining to  
18 restricted plants as determined by the working group;  
19 and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species  
22 Council and Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species are  
23 requested to:

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25 (1) Communicate and collaborate with their individual  
26 island members regarding the work and progress of this  
27 working group; and

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29 (2) Transmit a draft of their proposed findings,  
30 recommendations, and proposed legislation to the  
31 Legislative Reference Bureau no later than November 1,  
32 2011; and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau  
35 is requested to submit a report of the working group's findings  
36 and recommendations, including problems with existing statutes or  
37 administrative rules and any proposed legislation, to the  
38 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
39 the Regular Session of 2012; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working group  
42 are requested to serve without compensation and without  
43 reimbursement for expenses; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; President  
 3 of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
 4 Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture; Chairperson of the  
 5 Board of Land and Natural Resources; the members of the Hawaii  
 6 Invasive Species Council; Dean of the University of Hawaii  
 7 College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources;  
 8 Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; The Nature  
 9 Conservancy, Hawaii Chapter; Executive Director, Conservation  
 10 Council for Hawaii; Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the President  
 11 Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, and the Director of the  
 12 Legislative Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY: Andy Evans

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