
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO TO SEEK GRANT MONEYS
AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF
INCORPORATING NATIVE HAWAIIAN PLANT SPECIES IN CAPITAL
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

1 WHEREAS, a 2003 study by the University of Hawaii College
2 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources reported that
3 although native Hawaiian plants can be successfully grown and
4 mass produced for private and public landscaping projects, many
5 species have become extinct or are rare and threatened, thus
6 caution should be exercised when utilizing these plants in
7 landscaping projects; and

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9 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 378 (Regular Session 2011) proposed
10 amending section 103D-408, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require
11 all plans, designs, and specifications for state capital
12 improvement projects to exclusively incorporate native Hawaiian
13 land plant species; and

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15 WHEREAS, House Bill No. 378 has multiple benefits,
16 including the beautification of state facilities and properties,
17 showcasing unique varieties of native Hawaiian plants, and
18 preventing further spread of invasive species into Hawaii's
19 fragile ecosystem; and

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21 WHEREAS, before mandating the use of native Hawaiian plants
22 in state projects, however, more research should be conducted to
23 assess the environmental and nutritional needs of the different
24 varieties of plants and, in particular, to identify plants with
25 drought tolerant traits to increase the likelihood of survival;
26 and

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28 WHEREAS, the vast majority of native Hawaiian plants have a
29 poor survival rate between the elevations of one hundred feet



