
HOUSE 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

5
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, that the Department of Agriculture, in
29 cooperation with the University of Hawaii College of
30 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, is requested to
31 convene a working group to evaluate the current laws, rules,



1 and standards of practice regarding high risk plants
2 requiring intervention; and

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

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7 (1) Two representatives of the Hawaii Invasive Species
8 Council;

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10 (2) A representative from:

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12 (A) The University of Hawaii College of Tropical
13 Agriculture and Human Resources representative;

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15 (B) The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species;

16
17 (C) The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii Chapter;

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19 (D) The Conservation Council for Hawaii;

20
21 (E) The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and

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23 (F) The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii; and

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25 (3) One member each appointed by the President of the
26 Senate and the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives; and

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

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

36
37 (1) Evaluate the current regulations, rules, and standards
38 of practice regarding the adding and removing of items
39 from the restricted plant list;

40
41 (2) Determine a more effective and efficient process for
42 adding or removing plants to or from the restricted
43 plants list, to supplement the existing rulemaking
44 process, including the risk evaluation and assessment



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1 of the benefit versus the invasive potential of new and
2 existing plants;

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

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

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

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

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

26
27 (2) Transmit a draft of their proposed findings,
28 recommendations, and proposed legislation to the
29 Legislative Reference Bureau no later than November 1,
30 2011; and

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

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the working group
40 are requested to serve without compensation and without
41 reimbursement for expenses; and

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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
44 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; President of the



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1 Senate; the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Chairperson
 2 of the Department of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of
 3 Land and Natural Resources; the members of the Hawaii Invasive
 4 Species Council; Dean of the University of Hawaii College of
 5 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Coordinating Group
 6 on Alien Pest Species; The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii Chapter;
 7 Executive Director, Conservation Council for Hawaii; Hawaii Farm
 8 Bureau Federation, the President Landscape Industry Council of
 9 Hawaii, and the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY:

Karen Awana
June 1994

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