
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REVIEW FEDERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO THE STATE INSPECTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES ARRIVING INTO THE STATE OF HAWAII FROM INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS AND THE USE OF AIRPORT REVENUES FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands are a unique ecosystem and
2 environment, home to countless numbers of native plants and
3 animals found nowhere else in the world; and
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5 WHEREAS, this unique ecosystem and environment helps to
6 draw visitors to the Islands, supporting Hawaii's economic and
7 financial infrastructure; and
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9 WHEREAS, the uniqueness of Hawaii's ecosystems also leads
10 to high environmental susceptibility to alien pests and invasive
11 species; and
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13 WHEREAS, these alien pests and invasive species have
14 already taken a toll on Hawaii's agricultural industry, natural
15 environment, economy, and public health, and affected the
16 quality of life of residents and visitors alike; and
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18 WHEREAS, once established, introduced alien pests and
19 invasive species are extremely difficult to eradicate, costing
20 the State millions in damage and control costs; and
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22 WHEREAS, the arrival of alien pests and invasive species
23 have contributed to Hawaii's becoming the endangered species
24 capital of the United States, with the most species listed; and
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26 WHEREAS, air transportation has been shown to be the route
27 by which many alien pests and invasive species are introduced
28 into Hawaii; and



1 WHEREAS, the federal government asserts that the State does
2 not have the current authority to inspect incoming commodities
3 arriving from international destinations; and
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5 WHEREAS, without further action, alien pests and invasive
6 species will continue to pose an extreme danger to Hawaii's
7 agriculture, environment, economy, public health, and quality of
8 life; and
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10 WHEREAS, increased pest infestations will considerably
11 limit the expansion of Hawaii's agricultural industry and put
12 existing crops at risk, thereby increasing the State's reliance
13 on imported food and slowing Hawaii's efforts at self-
14 sustainability; and
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16 WHEREAS, Hawaii-grown commodities, in contrast to imports
17 from foreign countries, undergo rigorous inspection requirements
18 pursuant to United States Department of Agriculture quarantine
19 laws, as well as various stringent state laws, such as
20 California agriculture industry laws and practices prior to
21 export; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration has disallowed
24 the use of airport revenue to fund the State's agricultural
25 inspection services and facilities; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29 Session of 2013, that this body urges the President of the
30 United States and the United States Congress to review the
31 impact of federal laws on the inspection of incoming
32 international commodities into Hawaii; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government is
35 requested to:
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37 (1) Clarify that the State Department of Agriculture has
38 the authority to inspect and limit infested imported
39 products from entering the state from other nations;
40 or
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42 (2) Change the law to provide such authority; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Hawaii's Congressional
2 delegation work with the Federal Aviation Administration to
3 allow the use of airport revenues to fund agricultural
4 inspection services and facilities; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,
8 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Speaker of the
9 United States House of Representatives, Administrator of the
10 Federal Aviation Administration, and the members of Hawaii's
11 Congressional Delegation.

