
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species have negative
2 impacts on Hawaii crop and animal production, including
3 declining yields and depressed returns from the cultivation of
4 agricultural products; and
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6 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species are affecting
7 farmers statewide, and negative impacts are particularly acute
8 where the invasive and endangered species are relatively
9 recently introduced and traditional methods for control have not
10 been established; and
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12 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species directly affect
13 the growing of crops for local consumption and directly impact
14 Hawaii farmers' ability to supply fresh local crops to people in
15 the State; and
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17 WHEREAS, while farmers and ranchers have experienced the
18 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species, they don't
19 necessarily have the training to document the economic and
20 agricultural harm being caused by these damaging pests; and
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22 WHEREAS, documenting the impacts of invasive and endangered
23 species on Hawaii agriculture is necessary to facilitate a
24 unified federal, state, and county effort to address this
25 agricultural threat; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



1 Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
2 Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of Land and
3 Natural Resources, is requested to document and collect data
4 identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences
5 of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in
6 Hawaii; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
9 in coordination with the United States Department of
10 Agriculture, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the
11 Department of Land and Natural Resources, the College of
12 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension
13 Service and other scientific researchers at the University of
14 Hawaii, and the Invasive Species Committees on each respective
15 island, is requested to conduct population assessments of
16 invasive and endangered species affecting Hawaii's agricultural
17 industry; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
20 in conducting population assessments, is requested to examine
21 the following:

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- 23 (1) Population sizes, geographical ranges, and
24 distributions of invasive and endangered species;
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 - 26 (2) Impacts of invasive and endangered species on
27 agricultural crops and on nonagricultural land uses,
28 including botanical gardens, golf courses, and
29 watershed areas;
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 - 31 (3) Whether populations of invasive and endangered species
32 travel from watershed and wildlife habitats to areas
33 populated and cultivated by people in order to feed;
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 - 35 (4) The roosting and shelter areas of invasive and
36 endangered species, in relation to their feeding
37 areas; and
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 - 39 (5) The rates at which populations of invasive and
40 endangered species are increasing or decreasing; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
43 in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural
44 Resources, is requested to develop best management practices to



1 control, eradicate, or relocate invasive and endangered species
2 from Hawaii's agricultural areas, including:

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4 (1) Protocols to protect farms and ranches from the
5 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species,
6 control invasive species in a humane manner, and
7 assist appropriate wildlife agencies in developing
8 habitats for Hawaii's endangered species; and

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10 (2) Public education protocols for explaining the negative
11 impacts of invasive and endangered species on
12 agriculture and the steps taken by the Department of
13 Agriculture, in collaboration with the Department of
14 Land and Natural Resources, to address those negative
15 impacts; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture,
18 in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural
19 Resources, is requested to submit a report of its findings and
20 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
21 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
22 Regular Session of 2017; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
26 Board of Agriculture and the Chairperson of the Board of Land
27 and Natural Resources.

