
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT
AUDIT OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE.

1 WHEREAS, introduced or non-native species have and will
2 continue to have devastating impacts on Hawaii's agriculture,
3 natural environment, economy, public health, and quality of
4 life; and

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6 WHEREAS, the State's tourism depends upon Hawaii's unique
7 environment; and

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9 WHEREAS, there are more endangered species in the State of
10 Hawaii than in any other state in the United States, and of all
11 the plants and birds known to be extinct in the nation, two-
12 thirds are from Hawaii; and

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14 WHEREAS, core principles of sustainability are: protection
15 of the environment, maintenance of high and stable levels of
16 economic growth, and social progress that recognizes all
17 stakeholders' needs; and

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19 WHEREAS, without vigilant inspection, prohibited and
20 restricted insects, diseases, viruses, plants, and animals can
21 be introduced and established in the State, and can endanger the
22 public health, safety, and welfare; and

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24 WHEREAS, once established, invasive species are a matter of
25 serious public concern, causing millions of dollars in damage to
26 agriculture and the environment, and cannot be eradicated; and

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28 WHEREAS, there are increased concerns about the State of
29 Hawaii Department of Agriculture's inability to hire inspectors
30 in a timely manner; and

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1 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 150A-52, Hawaii Revised
2 Statutes, the Biosecurity Program is designed to prevent the
3 entry into the State and interisland movement of pests and
4 prohibited organisms, as well as eradicate, control, reduce,
5 suppress, seize, and dispose of incipient pest populations and
6 prohibited organisms; and

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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has failed to comply
9 with sections 150A-56 and 150A-57, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by
10 failing to submit reports to the Legislature on the status of
11 the Biosecurity Program for fiscal years 2012-2013, 2013-2014,
12 and 2014-2015; and

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14 WHEREAS, members of the agricultural sector, the
15 environmental sector, and the community have expressed concern
16 over the Department of Agriculture's lack of transparency and
17 progress on the implementation of the Biosecurity Program; and

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19 WHEREAS, inspection at the ports is considered the best
20 quarantine measure to reduce the entry of unwanted plants and
21 animals into Hawaii; and

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23 WHEREAS, the community believes that interdicting non-
24 native species through required inspections at all ports is an
25 important priority; 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
29 Session of 2016, that the Auditor is requested to conduct a
30 financial and management audit of the Plant Quarantine Branch of
31 the Department of Agriculture; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
34 focus on the current state of the Plant Quarantine Branch and
35 make recommendations on the resources necessary for the Plant
36 Quarantine Branch to fully and properly carry out its purpose
37 and responsibilities pursuant to chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised
38 Statutes; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
41 is requested to provide any information and other assistance the
42 Auditor may require; and



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 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor is
 3 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the
 4 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 5 the Regular Session of 2017; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 8 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the Chairperson of
 9 the Board of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:

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