
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE 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

5
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

11
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

16
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

21
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,

26
27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
29 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
30 Agriculture is requested to convene a task force to document and



H.C.R. NO. 84

1 collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory
2 consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and
3 endangered species in Hawaii; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
6 following persons or their designated representatives to serve
7 as members of the task force:
8

- 9 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, who is
10 requested to serve as Chairperson of the task force;
11
- 12 (2) One representative each from the Natural Resources
13 Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Rural
14 Development Agency of the United States Department of
15 Agriculture;
16
- 17 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
18 Resources;
19
- 20 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
21 Agribusiness Development Corporation;
22
- 23 (5) The Director of Health;
24
- 25 (6) One representative each from the College of Tropical
26 Agriculture and Human Resources and the Economic
27 Research Organization of the University of Hawaii;
28
- 29 (7) One representative each from the Planning Departments
30 of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and the
31 Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and
32 County of Honolulu;
33
- 34 (8) One representative each from the Offices of Economic
35 Development of the City and County of Honolulu, County
36 of Maui, and County of Kauai, and the Department of
37 Research and Development of the County of Hawaii;
38
- 39 (9) One representative from the Hawaii Invasive Species
40 Council; and
41



H.C.R. NO. 84

1 (10) One representative from the Hawaii Farm Bureau
2 Federation; and
3

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

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in conducting
16 population assessments, is requested to examine the following:
17

18 (1) Population sizes, geographical ranges, and
19 distributions of invasive and endangered species;
20

21 (2) Impacts of invasive and endangered species on
22 agricultural crops and on nonagricultural land uses,
23 including botanical gardens, golf courses, and
24 watershed areas;
25

26 (3) Whether populations of invasive and endangered species
27 travel from watershed and wildlife habitats to areas
28 populated and cultivated by people in order to feed;
29

30 (4) The roosting and shelter areas of invasive and
31 endangered species, in relation to their feeding
32 areas; and
33

34 (5) The rates at which populations of invasive and
35 endangered species are increasing or decreasing; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
38 develop best management practices to control, eradicate, or
39 relocate invasive and endangered species from Hawaii's
40 agricultural areas, including:
41



H.C.R. NO. 84

- 1 (1) Protocols to protect farms and ranches from the
- 2 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species,
- 3 control invasive species in a humane manner, and
- 4 assist appropriate wildlife agencies in developing
- 5 habitats for Hawaii's endangered species; and
- 6
- 7 (2) Public education protocols for explaining the negative
- 8 impacts of invasive and endangered species on
- 9 agriculture and the steps taken by the task force to
- 10 address those negative impacts; and
- 11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 13 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 14 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 15 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 16 2018; and

17
 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 19 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 20 Board of Agriculture; Chief of the Natural Resources
 21 Conservation Service, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency,
 22 and Under Secretary of the Rural Development Agency of the
 23 United States Department of Agriculture; Chairperson of the
 24 Board of Land and Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of
 25 Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Director
 26 of Health; Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human
 27 Resources and the Project Manager of the Economic Research
 28 Organization at the University of Hawaii; Directors of Planning
 29 of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; Director of Planning
 30 and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu; Executive
 31 Director of Economic Development of the City and County of
 32 Honolulu; Director of Economic Development of the County of
 33 Kauai; Coordinator of Economic Development of the County of
 34 Maui; Director of Research and Development of the County of
 35 Hawaii; Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council;
 36 and Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

37
 38
 39

OFFERED BY: Richard Long (by request)
 MAR 07 2017

