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# HOUSE 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

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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

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

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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-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
29 of 2017, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to  
30 convene a task force to document and collect data identifying  
31 economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop  
32 degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii;  
33 and



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

- (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, who is requested to serve as Chairperson of the task force;
- (2) One representative each from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Rural Development Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture;
- (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
- (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation;
- (5) The Director of Health;
- (6) One representative each from the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Economic Research Organization of the University of Hawaii;
- (7) One representative each from the Planning Departments of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and the Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu;
- (8) One representative each from the Offices of Economic Development of the City and County of Honolulu, County of Maui, and County of Kauai, and the Department of Research and Development of the County of Hawaii;
- (9) One representative from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and
- (10) One representative from the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; and



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

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in conducting  
13 population assessments, is requested to examine the following:

- 14  
15 (1) Population sizes, geographical ranges, and  
16 distributions of invasive and endangered species;  
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18 (2) Impacts of invasive and endangered species on  
19 agricultural crops and on nonagricultural land uses,  
20 including botanical gardens, golf courses, and  
21 watershed areas;  
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23 (3) Whether populations of invasive and endangered species  
24 travel from watershed and wildlife habitats to areas  
25 populated and cultivated by people in order to feed;  
26  
27 (4) The roosting and shelter areas of invasive and  
28 endangered species, in relation to their feeding  
29 areas; and  
30  
31 (5) The rates at which populations of invasive and  
32 endangered species are increasing or decreasing; and  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
35 develop best management practices to control, eradicate, or  
36 relocate invasive and endangered species from Hawaii's  
37 agricultural areas, including:

- 38  
39 (1) Protocols to protect farms and ranches from the  
40 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species,  
41 control invasive species in a humane manner, and



1 assist appropriate wildlife agencies in developing  
2 habitats for Hawaii's endangered species; and  
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- 4 (2) Public education protocols for explaining the negative  
5 impacts of invasive and endangered species on  
6 agriculture and the steps taken by the task force to  
7 address those negative impacts; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
10 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
11 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
12 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
13 2018; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
16 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
17 Agriculture; Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation  
18 Service, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, and Under  
19 Secretary of the Rural Development Agency of the United States  
20 Department of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
21 Natural Resources; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the  
22 Agribusiness Development Corporation; Director of Health; Dean  
23 of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and  
24 the Project Manager of the Economic Research Organization at the  
25 University of Hawaii; Directors of Planning of the Counties of  
26 Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; Director of Planning and Permitting of  
27 the City and County of Honolulu; Executive Director of Economic  
28 Development of the City and County of Honolulu; Director of  
29 Economic Development of the County of Kauai; Coordinator of  
30 Economic Development of the County of Maui; Director of Research  
31 and Development of the County of Hawaii; Co-Chairpersons of the  
32 Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and Executive Director of the  
33 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.  
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OFFERED BY:

 (by request)

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