
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REJECT THE IMPORT PLAN
AND QUARANTINE EXEMPTION REQUESTED BY KONA HILLS, LLC.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry
2 Division Plant Quarantine Branch prevents the introduction and
3 spread of harmful pests and diseases into the State, certifies
4 plants for export out of the State, and is also the State's
5 primary resource for information on importing plants, insects,
6 microorganisms, and non-domestic animals to Hawaii; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine
9 Program began more than one hundred years ago when, in 1888,
10 King David Kalakaua decreed that in order to protect the coffee
11 industry in Hawaii, new coffee plants would not be allowed into
12 the islands, and two years later, laws were enacted to prevent
13 the introduction of injurious insect pests and plant diseases;
14 and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch is the State's first
17 line of defense in keeping pests out of the islands by
18 monitoring whether eggs of harmful insects hatch on imported
19 plants or if diseases that could jeopardize the health of other
20 plants, which may appear only after significant growth of plants
21 imported into the State; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the quarantine process differs based on the plant
24 being imported and procedurally, coffee germplasm and coffee
25 plants are required to go through a one-year quarantine process
26 to ensure that the significant and crucial coffee industry of
27 Hawaii is protected; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the State's process for acquiring an exemption
30 from the plant quarantine rules is a rigorous process, which is



1 overseen by numerous experts in multiple scientific fields, and
2 requires approval by the Board of Agriculture and the Governor;
3 and
4

5 WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2017, according to the United States
6 Department of Agriculture, Hawaii produced more than 36,000,000
7 pounds of coffee cherry, nearly 2,000,000 pounds more than in
8 the previous year; and
9

10 WHEREAS, according to the USDA's National Agricultural
11 Statistics Association, the value of Hawaii's coffee crop stands
12 at more than \$62,000,000, with coffee cherry selling at \$1.71
13 per pound; and
14

15 WHEREAS, Kona coffee is world renowned for its excellence
16 and it is one of Hawaii's most iconic commercial exports; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the average Kona coffee farm is less than 5 acres
19 in size and approximately 5,000,000 trees currently comprise the
20 entire Kona coffee industry; and
21

22 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC is financed by the Atlanta-based
23 investment company Domain Capital Advisors; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC is seeking to establish an almost
26 1,900-acre coffee farm in Kealahou on which to plant 2,000,000
27 trees, which would be the largest coffee farm in the Kona region
28 of Hawaii Island; and
29

30 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC plans to grow at least six
31 varieties of coffee, five of which are not currently farmed in
32 the Kona coffee district and would produce different flavor
33 profiles from the heritage Kona coffee profile which has been
34 developed by generations of Kona farmers; and
35

36 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC has requested an exemption to the
37 Department of Agriculture's mandatory one-year quarantine period
38 to import 1,500,000 in-vitro coffee embryos from Costa Rica; and
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40 WHEREAS, coffee rust is a prevalent agricultural disease
41 found on Costa Rican coffee farms; and



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1 WHEREAS, an outbreak of coffee rust could cripple the Kona
2 coffee industry; and

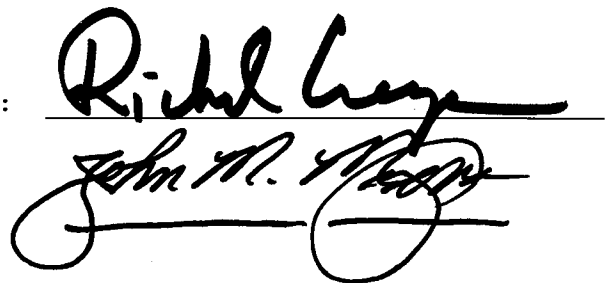
3
4 WHEREAS, the import plan and quarantine exemption sought by
5 Kona Hills, LLC could endanger the crop yields and financial
6 security of local Kona coffee farmers; now, therefore,

7
8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
9 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
10 of 2018, the Senate concurring, the Senate concurring, that the
11 Department of Agriculture is urged to reject the import plan and
12 quarantine exemption requested by Kona Hills, LLC; and

13
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
16 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the manager of the
17 Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Branch, and all
18 members of the Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch
19 Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals.

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21
22

OFFERED BY:



The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Richard Loo' and the bottom signature is 'John A. Burns'. Both signatures are written over horizontal lines.

MAR 09 2018

