

---

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE'S POLLINATOR SPECIES,  
THE THREAT THAT SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES POSE TO SUCH SPECIES,  
AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO TAKE MEASURES TO LIMIT  
POLLINATOR EXPOSURE TO NEONICOTINOIDS.

1           WHEREAS, pollinator species, including honeybees and other  
2 native bees, are a vital part of agricultural production in the  
3 State; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, pollinators are critical to valuable specialty  
6 crops, including melons, watermelons, cucumbers, squash,  
7 lychees, mangoes, macadamia nuts, coffee beans, eggplants,  
8 avocados, guavas, herbs; and some flowering plants, including  
9 sunflowers; and

10  
11           WHEREAS, in 2007, the Department of Agriculture estimated  
12 that nearly seventy percent of the State's food crops depend on  
13 pollination by bees and other pollinator species; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, Hawaii boasts a variety of native pollinators,  
16 including honeycreeper birds, Hawaiian yellow-faced bees, and  
17 Kamehameha butterflies; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, many of these iconic species are in peril, and  
20 twenty species of honeycreepers are already extinct; and

21  
22           WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife  
23 Service added the following seven species of Hawaiian yellow-  
24 faced bees to the federal lists of endangered and threatened  
25 wildlife and plants: *Hylaeus anthracinus*, *Hylaeus longiceps*,  
26 *Hylaeus assimulans*, *Hylaeus facilis*, *Hylaeus hilaris*, *Hylaeus*  
27 *kuakea*, and *Hylaeus mana*; and



# H.C.R. NO. 118

1           WHEREAS, these native bee species face an even greater risk  
2 from the use of neonicotinoid insecticides; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, scientists and governments around the world have  
5 linked the use of systemic insecticides to the rapid decline of  
6 honeybees and other pollinators and to the deterioration of  
7 pollinator health; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, scientists and governments have identified a  
10 particular class of systemic insecticides, called  
11 neonicotinoids, as one significant threat to the existence of  
12 pollinator species; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids are  
15 absorbed into treated plants and distributed throughout their  
16 vascular systems, and are highly persistent in the environment;  
17 and

18  
19           WHEREAS, despite recognition of their danger, the use of  
20 neonicotinoids is ubiquitous, from seed coating to applications  
21 on fruits and vegetables, grasses and lawns, and backyard  
22 ornamentals; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, governmental agencies around the world have taken  
25 action to limit the toxic impacts of neonicotinoids; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, in 2013, the European Union voted to suspend the  
28 use of three major neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin,  
29 and thiamethoxam), on certain agricultural crops pending a  
30 review of their safety; and

31  
32           WHEREAS, in 2015, the United States Environmental  
33 Protection Agency announced a moratorium on approvals for new  
34 outdoor uses of neonicotinoids; now, therefore,

35  
36           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
38 2019, the Senate concurring, to recognize that pollinator  
39 species, both native and non-native, play a critical role in the  
40 State's local food production, agricultural economy, and natural  
41 ecosystems; and



# H.C.R. NO. 118

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to recognize that restricting  
 2 exposure of the State's honeybees, native bees, insects, birds,  
 3 and other pollinators to neonicotinoid insecticides is necessary  
 4 to protect these species and the State's agricultural economy  
 5 and natural ecosystems; and

6  
 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
 8 Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture are urged to  
 9 take measures, as authorized by law, to limit pollinator  
 10 exposure to neonicotinoids; and

11  
 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
 13 Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture are  
 14 requested to submit a report of their specific measures taken,  
 15 and any proposed legislation necessary to limit pollinator  
 16 exposure to neonicotinoids, to the Legislature no later than  
 17 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
 18 2020; and

19  
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
 22 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Chairperson of the Board  
 23 of Agriculture.

24  
 25  
 26

OFFERED BY: Richard Gray  
Amy Dennis  
Gordon Thelen  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MAR 08 2019

