
HOUSE 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

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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

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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

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

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

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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21 WHEREAS, governmental agencies around the world have taken
22 action to limit the toxic impacts of neonicotinoids; and

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

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

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

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to recognize that restricting
39 exposure of the State's honeybees, native bees, insects, birds,
40 and other pollinators to neonicotinoid insecticides is necessary
41 to protect these species and the State's agricultural economy
42 and natural ecosystems; and



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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

Richard Lopez

Amy Peruso

Gustavo Thiele

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and
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MAR 08 2019

