

FEB 27 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE
ON PLANNING FOR A MULTIAGENCY FACILITY FOR BIOLOGICAL
CONTROL AND OTHER CONTAINMENT RESEARCH.

1 WHEREAS, the recent invasion by disease-bearing organisms,
2 insects, snakes, weeds, and other pests is the single greatest
3 threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment and to the
4 health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people; and
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6 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii has a long and successful
7 history of using biological control, a pest management method
8 where the natural enemy agents of an invasive species reunite to
9 combat those invasive species in an invaded range; and
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11 WHEREAS, biological control is one of the most cost-
12 effective strategies for the control and management of
13 widespread invasive species; and
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15 WHEREAS, the methods for biological control research
16 utilize careful evaluations to demonstrate that selected agents
17 do not substantially impact any species other than the targeted
18 invasive species; and
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20 WHEREAS, biological control has been used to save native
21 plant species, such as the wiliwili tree from invasive gall
22 wasps, and is being used to limit the spread of invasive plant
23 species, such as strawberry guava and fireweed; and
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25 WHEREAS, the biological control research facilities of the
26 Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii, and United
27 States Department of Agriculture Pacific Southwest Research
28 Station have become outdated and, in some cases, unusable; and
29



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1 WHEREAS, the limitations of existing facilities restrict
2 the types and quantities of biological control research that can
3 be conducted in Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan identifies
6 the planning and construction of biological control research
7 facilities as a top priority for enhancing biosecurity in the
8 State of Hawaii; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Legislature provided funds to the Department
11 of Agriculture in 2018 to begin site evaluations for a new
12 biological control facility; and
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14 WHEREAS, following the Western Governors' Biosecurity and
15 Invasive Species Initiative, a group of state and federal
16 stakeholders have identified the need for a multiagency,
17 regional facility to address the capacity needs of both state
18 and federal researchers working in Hawaii and in the Pacific
19 region; and
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21 WHEREAS, existing facilities in Hawaii could better protect
22 the agriculture and environment of the State and the Pacific
23 region through the biological control research conducted at a
24 multiagency, regional facility; and
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26 WHEREAS, such a facility could also be used for other types
27 of research that require secure containment features, such as
28 studies of invasive fruit flies or mosquitoes; and
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30 WHEREAS, the planning and construction of such a facility
31 will require substantial stakeholder engagement and investments
32 from state, federal, and other funding sources over several
33 years; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
36 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
37 Representatives concurring, that the Department Agriculture,
38 University of Hawaii, and United States Department of
39 Agriculture are requested to collaborate on planning a
40 multiagency, regional facility for biological control and other
41 containment research in Hawaii; and
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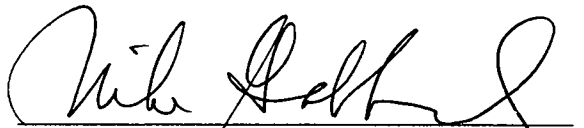
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
 2 is requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the status
 3 and progress of the multiagency biological control facility,
 4 including federal engagement in the planning process, no later
 5 than twenty days prior to the convening of each Regular Session
 6 of 2021-2027; and

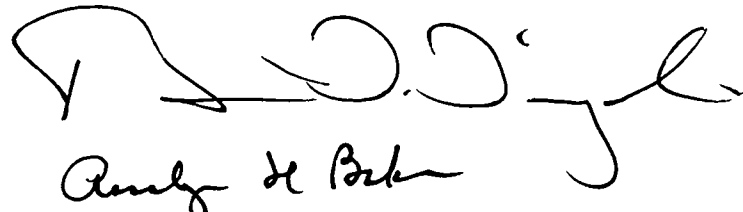
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 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports
 9 multiagency efforts toward the planning and construction of
 10 necessary biological control and containment facilities in
 11 Hawaii; and

12
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the
 15 United States Department of Agriculture, Board of Agriculture of
 16 the Department of Agriculture, Board of Regents of the
 17 University of Hawaii, and President of the University of Hawaii.

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OFFERED BY: 


 Andy de Bora


 Breene Hunt

