

MAR 0 6 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MITIGATION PLAN WITH SHORT AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE SPREAD OF AND ERADICATE GORSE ON HAWAII ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, the 'Āina Mauna lands on Hawaii island include over
2 fifty thousand acres of the State's most pristine environments,
3 representing the natural beauty of the islands and holding
4 significant value for native and endemic species, as well as for
5 Hawaiian culture; and

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7 WHEREAS, an invasive plant species, gorse, is a blight
8 affecting over twenty percent of the 'Āina Mauna lands and
9 rapidly spreading, rendering the affected land nearly useless,
10 and causing what could be irreversible harm to the environment,
11 which could potentially create a devastating ecological disaster
12 if not immediately addressed; and

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14 WHEREAS, gorse seeds remain viable in the soil for up to
15 seventy years, while unmanaged ungulate populations and careless
16 removal efforts continue to spread the invasive plant species,
17 creating an ecological crisis that must be addressed with
18 comprehensive and long term solutions; and

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20 WHEREAS, there may be commercial applications in harvesting
21 gorse, including use as feedstock, oils, and biofuel that could
22 be used by energy facilities, as well as the potential for
23 sustainable native forestry operations on the island; and

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25 WHEREAS, due to lack of resources and long term strategy,
26 the response by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands thus far
27 has been inadequate, and gorse is continuing to spread and
28 ravage the 'Āina Manua lands; now, therefore,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
31 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
32 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to convene a task



1 force with the Department of Land and Natural Resources,
 2 Department of Agriculture, Invasive Species Council, and other
 3 interested parties to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan
 4 with short and long term solution to address the spread of and
 5 eradicate gorse on Hawaii island; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will leverage
 8 all county, state, and federal agencies to address the problem
 9 and explore potential commercial opportunities, such as the use
 10 in biofuel, feedstock, and oils, that would help address the
 11 issue; and

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 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
 14 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
 15 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
 16 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
 17 2021; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 20 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
 21 Homes Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
 22 Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Hawaii
 23 Invasive Species Council Program Supervisor, and Mayors of each
 24 county.

OFFERED BY:

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