

---

## 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

6  
7           WHEREAS, an invasive plant species, gorse, is a rapidly  
8 spreading blight affecting over twenty percent of the 'Āina Mauna  
9 lands, rendering the affected land nearly useless, and causing  
10 what could be irreversible harm to the environment, which could  
11 potentially create a devastating ecological disaster if not  
12 immediately addressed; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, gorse seeds remain viable in the soil for up to  
15 seventy years, while unmanaged ungulate populations and limited  
16 removal efforts continue to spread the invasive plant species,  
17 creating an ecological crisis that must be addressed with  
18 comprehensive short and long term solutions; and

19  
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

24  
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 limited, and gorse is continuing to spread and ravage  
28 the 'Āina Manua lands; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the  
3 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is urged to convene a task  
4 force with the Department of Land and Natural Resources,  
5 Department of Agriculture, Invasive Species Council, and other  
6 interested parties to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan  
7 with short and long term solutions to address the spread and  
8 eradication of gorse on Hawaii island; and  
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will leverage  
11 all county, state, and federal agencies to address the problem  
12 and explore potential commercial opportunities, such as the use  
13 in biofuel, feedstock, and oils that would help address the  
14 issue; and  
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
17 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
18 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
20 2021; and  
21

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

