

---

## SENATE RESOLUTION

---

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND ITS QUARANTINE  
FACILITIES OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.

1 WHEREAS, responding quickly to newly detected invasive  
2 species can often prevent the species from becoming firmly  
3 established, saving taxpayers money in the long-term; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
6 has stated that foreign pests and disease already cost the  
7 United States' economy tens of billions of dollars annually in  
8 lower crop values, eradication programs, emergency payments to  
9 farmers, and increased costs for food and other natural  
10 resources; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, the recent detection of coffee leaf rust fungus  
13 has shown that the existing facilities are unable to deal with  
14 the demand for disease resistant stock; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, with the current spread of coffee leaf rust  
17 fungus, State agencies lack the resources, such as quarantine  
18 facilities and response mechanisms, to deal with these newly  
19 identified threats and may be missing opportunities to eliminate  
20 them; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, because the introduction of coffee leaf rust  
23 fungus as an alien invasive species poses serious problems to  
24 the State's ecosystem, any introduction of alien invasive  
25 species via the airports or any other entry points throughout  
26 the State may lead to significant cumulative impacts; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of  
29 Agriculture is tasked with preventing the introduction and  
30 spread of harmful pests and diseases into the State by  
31 regulating domestic import, performing border inspections, and  
32 facilitating post-border detection and control of agricultural  
33 pests; and  
34



1 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of  
2 Agriculture is a critical component in meeting the threat of  
3 invasive species entering Hawai'i and spreading throughout  
4 Hawai'i through the State's ports of entry; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, even with the expansion of existing Department of  
7 Agriculture facilities with a \$1,000,000 increase over two  
8 years, the increase in quarantine capacity needed to meet  
9 current demands will likely require an additional two to three  
10 years, which may not be timely enough to adequately address the  
11 immediate threat to the industry, allowing invasive species to  
12 become established in the State and making mitigation efforts  
13 more protracted and expensive; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, the USDA is currently allocating \$70,000,000 to  
16 support three hundred eighty-three projects under the Plant Pest  
17 and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and the  
18 National Clean Plant Network Programs under the authority of the  
19 Plant Protection Act Section 7721 which strengthens the nation's  
20 infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance,  
21 identification, threat mitigation, safeguard the nursery  
22 production system, and respond to plant pest emergencies in  
23 ensuring the availability of pathogen-free, disease-free, and  
24 pest-free certified material; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, since 2009, the USDA has supported more than four  
27 thousand four hundred projects and provided nearly \$670,000,000  
28 in funding through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and  
29 Disaster Prevention Program, allowing the USDA and its partners  
30 to quickly detect and rapidly respond to invasive plant pests  
31 and diseases; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not taken  
34 advantage of federal funding opportunities to increase the  
35 capacity to appropriately quarantine regulated plant materials  
36 that will benefit growers, which would enhance its ability to  
37 prevent the entry of invasive species through increased  
38 screening and enforcement abilities; now, therefore,  
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
41 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
42 that the Department of Agriculture is urged to expand its



1 quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the Plant  
2 Quarantine Branch and determine the cost of recommended  
3 quarantine facilities in affected areas; and  
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
6 is urged to apply for federal funding under the USDA through its  
7 Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention  
8 Program and the National Clean Plant Network Program under the  
9 authority of the Plant Protection Act Section 7721 for the  
10 purposes of expanding its quarantine facilities to increase  
11 screening and enforcement abilities throughout the State; and  
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
15 Agriculture.

