
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS, THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE INCREASED AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO THE INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEES AND HAWAI'I ANT LAB WITHIN THE PACIFIC COOPERATIVE STUDIES UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is home to unique and fragile
2 ecosystems, many of which are found nowhere else in the world,
3 and protecting these ecosystems is crucial to preserving
4 Hawaii's natural heritage, biodiversity, and the overall health
5 of the environment; and
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7 WHEREAS, invasive species, both plant and animal, pose one
8 of the greatest threats to Hawaii's native flora and fauna,
9 disrupting natural processes, outcompeting native species,
10 introducing diseases, and altering habitats, often with
11 irreversible consequences; and
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13 WHEREAS, the impact of invasive species extends beyond
14 environmental damage, severely affecting Hawaii's agricultural
15 sector, a key pillar of the State's economy, by damaging crops,
16 reducing yields, and increasing production costs; and
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18 WHEREAS, invasive species also threaten Hawaii's tourism
19 industry by compromising the beauty and biodiversity of natural
20 landscapes, which are a significant draw for visitors, and by
21 degrading the quality of outdoor recreational activities such as
22 hiking and fishing; and
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24 WHEREAS, the economic consequences of invasive species are
25 wide-ranging, resulting in millions of dollars in lost revenue
26 from agriculture and tourism, as well as increased costs for
27 property owners, businesses, and agencies tasked with managing
28 and mitigating these threats; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs), including
3 the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, Maui Invasive Species
4 Committee, Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee, Oahu
5 Invasive Species Committee, Kauai Invasive Species Committee,
6 and Hawai'i Ant Lab, have played a critical role in managing and
7 preventing the spread of invasive species throughout the State,
8 focusing on early detection, rapid response, control, and
9 eradication of harmful species that threaten Hawaii's natural
10 ecosystems, economy, and communities; and

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12 WHEREAS, the ISCs serve as an important gap filler by
13 tailoring their target pest lists to be area-specific,
14 addressing localized invasive species threats, and ensuring that
15 control efforts are aligned with the unique needs of each
16 region, thereby maximizing the effectiveness of limited
17 resources; and

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19 WHEREAS, the ISCs rely on limited funding to implement
20 targeted control programs, provide education and outreach to the
21 public, and conduct on-the-ground management actions to prevent
22 the establishment and spread of invasive species, which, if left
23 unchecked, could cost the State and residents millions of
24 dollars in damages and lost revenue; and

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26 WHEREAS, investing in invasive species management will
27 protect Hawaii's environment and economy by safeguarding
28 agriculture, tourism, and local industries, while also enhancing
29 the State's resilience to climate change by maintaining healthy
30 ecosystems that support essential services such as water
31 quality, soil stability, and biodiversity; and

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33 WHEREAS, failure to address invasive species in a timely
34 and effective manner will result in long-term ecological and
35 economic damage, costing millions of dollars annually in
36 treatment and mitigation efforts; now, therefore,

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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
39 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
40 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that Congress, the counties of
41 the State, and other relevant agencies are urged to provide
42 increased and sustained funding to the Invasive Species



1 Committees and Hawai'i Ant Lab within the Pacific Cooperative
2 Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges Congress, the
5 counties of the State, and other relevant agencies, including
6 the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural
7 Resources, to provide sustained funding to the ISCs to
8 strengthen their ability to combat the growing threat of
9 invasive species and protect Hawaii's ecosystems and economy;
10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties, Invasive Species
13 Committees, and Hawai'i Ant Lab are urged to seek federal grants
14 to support their efforts to prevent and respond to the spread of
15 invasive species in the State; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding be directed toward
18 expanding invasive species control programs to target priority
19 species, increasing research and monitoring efforts to detect
20 new invasions early, enhancing public outreach and education to
21 raise awareness about preventing the spread of invasive species,
22 supporting interagency and community collaboration to improve
23 response coordination and resource-sharing, and providing
24 treatment options for residents and farmers impacted by these
25 species, including grants for control efforts and the purchase
26 of treatment supplies; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the president Pro
30 Tempore of the United States Senator; Speaker of the United
31 States of Representatives; members of Hawaii's congressional
32 delegation; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Chairperson
33 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director of the
34 Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at
35 Mānoa; Mayors of the Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii; and
36 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

