

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PETITION THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADDRESS THE LACK
OF PARITY BETWEEN HAWAII AND OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES
PERTAINING TO THE EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS.

WHEREAS, Hawaii is the only state in the nation that is
regulated similarly to United States territories; and

WHEREAS, under title 7 Code of Federal Regulations part
318, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States
Department of Agriculture may prohibit or restrict the movement
in interstate commerce of any plant or plant product from Hawaii
and the territories to the continental United States to prevent
the introduction of plant pests on the continent; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that
it is necessary to prohibit the interstate movement of cut
flowers, fruits, vegetables, and plants from Hawaii to the
continental United States unless specifically allowed; and

WHEREAS, the list of specifically allowed fruits and
vegetables is very limited; and

WHEREAS, for the State to add more agricultural commodities
to the allowable list, it is required that a petition be
submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the petition requires a pest risk analysis be
conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, a long-standing problem is that Hawaii waits in
the same queue as foreign countries seeking to export products
into the United States and the foreign countries' petitions are
often deemed a higher priority and therefore expedited; and



1 WHEREAS, shipments of fruits and vegetables require
2 quarantine treatment, inspection, and authorization by the
3 United States Department of Agriculture; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's
6 quarantine requirements for agricultural commodities grown in
7 Hawaii has severely limited the State's exports; and
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9 WHEREAS, this constraint has seriously impacted Hawaii's
10 agricultural sector as the State's growers must wait years, if
11 not decades, for the United States Department of Agriculture's
12 authorization; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
15 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
16 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's congressional
17 delegation is requested to petition the United States Department
18 of Agriculture to address the lack of parity between Hawaii and
19 other states and territories pertaining to the export of
20 agricultural goods; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
24 congressional delegation and Chairperson of the Board of
25 Agriculture.

