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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE TOURISM LIAISON AND THE HAWAII HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION IN RAISING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND PREVENTION OF THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF BEDBUGS.

WHEREAS, after nearly being eradicated six decades ago, bedbugs are appearing in growing numbers throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the National Pest Management Association indicates they have received reports of bedbugs in forty-three states; and

WHEREAS, changing pest control practices that favor non-toxic alternatives is believed to have contributed to the current bedbug problem; and

WHEREAS, increased world travel has also been a factor in the re-emergence of bedbugs, which are easily transported in a suitcase and can survive for long periods without food; and

WHEREAS, nationally, a number of hotels with bedbug problems have had to deal with frustrated visitors and negative publicity; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's visitor industry and residents alike are susceptible to the increasing incidence of bedbugs and the exorbitant costs related to their control and extermination; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Health is requested to work in cooperation with the State Tourism Liaison and the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging Association in raising awareness, education, and prevention of the increasing incidence of bedbugs; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Health is requested to submit findings and recommendations to the Legislature not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, the State Tourism Liaison, and the Hawaii Hotel & Lodging.