
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE AND SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CONCERNS REGARDING THE INSPECTION OF PLANTS AND PRODUCTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the threat of invasive species is an on-going
2 concern that requires vigilant inspection and control of
3 unwanted pests at all points of entry into the State; and
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5 WHEREAS, the federal Plant Protection Act of 2000 preempts
6 any state from regulating foreign commerce to "prevent the
7 introduction or dissemination of a biological control organism,
8 plant pest, or noxious weed"; and
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10 WHEREAS, consequently the Hawaii Department of Agriculture
11 no longer inspects certain products and produce, including
12 coffee imported from foreign counties that may carry harmful
13 pests into the State; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2003, the Department of Homeland Security
16 transferred the United States Department of Agriculture's
17 responsibility for inspecting plant products from foreign
18 countries to the federal Customs and Border Protection agency;
19 and
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21 WHEREAS, the elimination of the United States Department of
22 Agriculture's inspection authority has left airport passenger
23 and baggage entry ways more vulnerable to penetration by
24 invasive species; and
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26 WHEREAS, invasive species concerns should be addressed by
27 proactive inspection and regulations for both incoming and
28 outgoing products and produce; and
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1 WHEREAS, communication and coordination between federal and
 2 state inspectors need to be clarified and improved by
 3 implementing a concerted federal and state invasive species
 4 action plan to provide adequate protection for the State from
 5 invasive species; now, therefore,

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 7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
 9 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's
 10 congressional delegation is requested to introduce and support
 11 federal legislation concerning the inspection of plants and
 12 products from foreign countries including the establishment of a
 13 federal and state invasive species action plan, to prevent the
 14 introduction of invasive species from entering into the State;
 15 and

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 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state Department of
 18 Agriculture is requested to work with their federal counterparts
 19 to effectuate this Concurrent Resolution; and

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 21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to members of Hawaii's
 23 congressional delegation and the Chairperson of the state Board
 24 of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY: Cindy Evans
Mel Carroll
Pono Choy
Shun & Jo
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