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# 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 ongoing  
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 countries 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 (USDA)  
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 USDA's inspection authority  
22 has left airport passenger and baggage entry ways more  
23 vulnerable to penetration by invasive species; and  
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25           WHEREAS, invasive species concerns should be addressed by  
26 proactive inspection and regulation for both incoming and  
27 outgoing products and produce; and



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 the state with adequate protection 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  
13 a 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 its 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, Secretary of the United States  
24 Department of Agriculture, and the Chairperson of the Board of  
25 Agriculture.

