

JAN 24 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF VAPOR HEAT TREATMENT FOR NEUTRALIZING
FRUIT FLIES ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR INTERSTATE RETAIL
DISTRIBUTION.

1 WHEREAS, vapor heat treatment is used primarily for fruits
2 and vegetables that are hosts for fruit flies, and is an
3 approved treatment under 7 C.F.R. 30524(c) to neutralize the
4 Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*), the Oriental fruit
5 fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), and the melon fruit fly (*Bactrocera*
6 *curcurbitae*), which bell peppers, eggplant, Italian squash, and
7 tomatoes may host during interstate travel from Hawaii to the
8 mainland; and

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10 WHEREAS, the solanum fruit fly (*Bactrocera latifrons*) is an
11 additional species of fruit fly that has been detected in
12 vegetables and fruits grown in Hawaii; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Mediterranean, Oriental, melon, and solanum
15 fruit flies are all members of the Tephritidae family, and are
16 pests for which the United States Department of Agriculture's
17 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service requires vapor heat
18 or irradiation treatment of Hawaii grown vegetables and fruits
19 intended for mainland retail distribution; and

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21 WHEREAS, limited research has been done on the
22 effectiveness of vapor heat treatment on neutralizing the
23 solanum fruit fly, but studies have shown that an irradiation
24 dose of 150 gray is sufficient to neutralize all fruit flies
25 within the Tephritidae family; and

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27 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's
28 Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is currently
29 proposing to remove vapor heat treatment as an approved
30 treatment for bell pepper, eggplant, Italian squash, and tomato
31 moved interstate from Hawaii and add irradiation as an approved



1 treatment for Capsium spp. (all peppers) and Curcubita spp. (all
2 squash); and
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4 WHEREAS, the removal of vapor heat treatment as an approved
5 treatment for vegetables and fruits moved interstate will force
6 Hawaii produce growers and suppliers to use irradiation
7 treatment for their commodities before interstate shipment; and
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9 WHEREAS, currently, there is only one irradiation facility
10 in the State that treats papaya, rambutan, star fruit, lychee,
11 and atemoya for retail distribution on the mainland; and
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13 WHEREAS, in 2005, a Hawaii company submitted to the United
14 States Nuclear Regulatory Commission an application to build and
15 operate near the Honolulu airport an underwater pool-type
16 commercial irradiator facility; and
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18 WHEREAS, the plans for the facility are currently on hold
19 because the application resulted in controversy and debate
20 regarding the radioactive materials that are used to treat the
21 agricultural products, and the effect the irradiation treatment
22 has on the quality, appearance, or taste of the product; and
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24 WHEREAS, in light of the controversy, irradiation treatment
25 in Hawaii is only limited to the facility on the Big Island, and
26 it is cost prohibitive for Oahu, Maui, and Kauai growers to ship
27 their produce to the Big Island for treatment before being sent
28 to the mainland for retail sale; and
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30 WHEREAS, vapor heat treatment is a viable alternative for
31 Hawaii growers to treat their produce for interstate movement,
32 and the proposed removal from the list of approved treatments
33 has the potential of further denying Hawaii growers access to
34 mainland markets; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
39 Agriculture is requested to study the effectiveness of vapor
40 heat treatment for neutralizing fruit flies on fruits and
41 vegetables intended for interstate retail distribution; and
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43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
44 is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the



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1 Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of
2 the Regular Session of 2008; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the
6 United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant
7 Health Inspection Service and the Chairperson of the Board of
8 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY: *Franzanne Chun Oakland*

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