

FEB 28 2008

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT
AUDIT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE IN RELATION TO HUMAN AND ANIMAL PATHOGENS
IMPORTED TO HAWAII FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.

1 WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee at the
2 University of Hawaii at Manoa received grants to conduct
3 research related to pathogens from the National Institutes of
4 Health; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee has, for
7 research purposes, oversight over research on human and animal
8 pathogens, such as the avian, West Nile, and dengue flu viruses;
9 and

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11 WHEREAS, the pathogens received by the Institutional
12 Biosafety Committee are controlled microorganisms that were
13 properly imported into Hawaii through permits granted by the
14 State; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee was not in
17 compliance with the federal guidelines that are required by all
18 institutions that receive grants for biomedical research from
19 the National Institutes of Health; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Sunshine Project, a private international
22 group that seeks controls on biological weapons, appropriately
23 submitted numerous requests for copies of the minutes from the
24 Institutional Biosafety Committee; and

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26 WHEREAS, the Institutional Biosafety Committee, in
27 violation of the National Institutes of Health guidelines, has
28 failed to comply with such requests from the Sunshine Project;
29 and

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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture discovered that
2 researchers from the University of Hawaii have not submitted
3 various records related to pathogens that the researchers have
4 under their control; and

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6 WHEREAS, over the past fifty years, due to an inefficient
7 recordkeeping system, the Department of Agriculture has not
8 properly recorded the location and inventory of hundreds of
9 viruses and microbes that were imported to Hawaii for research
10 purposes; and

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12 WHEREAS, a comprehensive management audit of the
13 Institutional Biosafety Committee and the recordkeeping system
14 at the Department of Agriculture will help to ensure that the
15 citizens and visitors of Hawaii are protected from pathogens
16 that are imported to Hawaii for research purposes; now,
17 therefore,

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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2008, the
21 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor, with the
22 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to
23 develop specific legislative proposals; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor, with the
26 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to
27 conduct an audit of the Institutional Biosafety Committee at the
28 University of Hawaii at Manoa and the Department of Agriculture
29 to determine the systems, practices, procedures, and staff
30 training that should be in place to protect the citizens and
31 visitors in Hawaii and ensure public accountability with respect
32 to programs involving pathogens imported to the State for
33 research purposes, such as avian, West Nile, and dengue viruses;
34 and

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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor, with the
37 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to
38 report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no
39 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
40 Session of 2009; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the
44 State of Hawaii, the Auditor, the President and Chairperson of
2008-0420 SCR SMA-3.doc



S.C.R. NO. 69

1 the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the
 2 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of Health,
 3 and the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

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OFFERED BY: Mike Goffard

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[Signature]

