

MAR 12 2009

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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5 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO EDUCATE
6 THE PUBLIC ON THE PROPER CLEANING OF PRODUCE.
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8 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for
9 administering programs designed to protect, preserve, care for,
10 and improve the health of the people of the State, including
11 food safety; and
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13 WHEREAS, food safety encompasses the preparation of
14 uncooked foods, such as fruits and vegetables; and
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16 WHEREAS, in December 2008, three Big Island residents were
17 hospitalized because of a rare ailment, commonly called rat
18 lungworm disease; and
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20 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease arises from parasitic worms
21 that can be ingested when eating raw produce containing a small
22 snail or slug, that migrates through the body; and
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24 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease can cause significant pain
25 and trauma, including paralysis, blindness, and death; and
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27 WHEREAS, a study identified twenty-four cases of rat
28 lungworm disease in Hawaii from January 2001 to February 2005;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, an growing number of Hawaii residents are
32 consuming home-grown produce, thereby increasing the importance
33 of educating the public on the proper cleaning of fruits and
34 vegetables; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
39 Health is urged to make it a priority to educate the public on
40 the proper cleaning of produce; and
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S.C.R. NO. 57

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY: Michelle N. Klani

