

MAR 18 2009

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO RESEARCH THE USE OF VEGETATIVE EROSION BARRIERS TO MINIMIZE SOIL EROSION AND PREVENT THE RESULTING RUNOFF FROM DAMAGING ROADS, STREAMS, COASTAL WATERS AND REEFS, AND TO STABILIZE STREAM BANKS, HILLSIDES, AND OTHER THREATENED SITES.

1 WHEREAS, the State has spent millions of dollars to install  
2 hard engineering structures, or shore protection structures, to  
3 prevent the shoreline from moving and stabilize the shoreline;  
4 and

5  
6 WHEREAS, soil erosion and the resulting runoff continues to  
7 compromise road safety, pollute streams and coastal waters, and  
8 kill reefs; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, some areas experience recurring landslides and  
11 deteriorating stream banks and hillsides, all of which pose a  
12 danger to life and property; and

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14 WHEREAS, additional mitigation work could be completed if  
15 effective methods of slope stabilization and soil erosion  
16 prevention were more economical, environmentally-friendly, and  
17 readily available; and

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19 WHEREAS, vegetative erosion barriers planted on the contour  
20 of an area requiring stabilization provide a permanent solution  
21 which can avoid the costly construction of hard engineered  
22 structures; and

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24 WHEREAS, Vetiver grass, or *Vetiveria zizanioides*, is an  
25 upright, tufted, deep-rooted, and very dense grass that is  
26 proving to be a prime tool in providing a solution to soil  
27 erosion problems in tropical areas; now, therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,  
31 that the Legislature requests that the Department of Land and  
32 Natural Resources and the Department of Transportation research

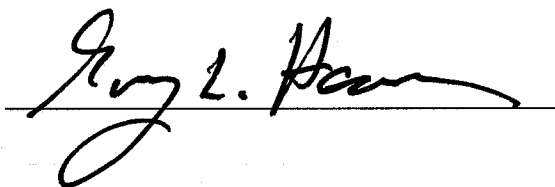


1 the use of vegetative erosion barriers, particularly Vetiver  
2 grass, to minimize soil erosion and prevent the resulting runoff  
3 from damaging roads, streams, coastal waters, and reefs and to  
4 stabilize stream banks, hillsides, and other threatened sites;  
5 and  
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
8 Natural Resources is requested to submit a final report to the  
9 Legislature, including any proposed legislation, not later than  
10 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
11 2010; and  
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
15 Land and Natural Resources and the Director of Transportation.  
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17  
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy L. Brown", is written over a horizontal line.