

MAR 12 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

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3
4 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO EDUCATE
5 THE PUBLIC ON THE PROPER CLEANING OF PRODUCE.
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for
8 administering programs designed to protect, preserve, care for,
9 and improve the health of the people of the State, including
10 food safety; and
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12 WHEREAS, food safety encompasses the preparation of
13 uncooked foods, such as fruits and vegetables; and
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15 WHEREAS, in December 2008, three Big Island residents were
16 hospitalized because of a rare ailment, commonly called rat
17 lungworm disease; and
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19 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease arises from parasitic worms
20 that can be ingested when eating raw produce containing a small
21 snail or slug, that migrates through the body; and
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23 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease can cause significant pain
24 and trauma, including paralysis, blindness, and death; and
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26 WHEREAS, a study identified twenty-four cases of rat
27 lungworm disease in Hawaii from January 2001 to February 2005;
28 and
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30 WHEREAS, an growing number of Hawaii residents are
31 consuming home-grown produce, thereby increasing the importance
32 of educating the public on the proper cleaning of fruits and
33 vegetables; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
37 that the Department of Health is urged to make it a priority to
38 educate the public on the proper cleaning of produce; and
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S.R. NO. 33

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

