

MAR 16 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLABORATE AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE OF HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the spread of invasive species is one of the
2 greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and
3 the health and lifestyle of the people of Hawaii; and
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5 WHEREAS, invasive species require millions of dollars
6 annually in eradication programs, and have led to crop loss,
7 native species extinction, the destruction of native forests,
8 the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported
9 agricultural crops; and
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11 WHEREAS, invasive species enter Hawaii primarily through
12 air and marine transportation; and
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14 WHEREAS, reports prepared for Congress and the U.S.
15 Department of Agriculture state that invasive species enter
16 Hawaii two million times more rapidly than the natural rate, and
17 establish themselves in Hawaii five hundred times more often
18 than any other state in the nation; and
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20 WHEREAS, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000,
21 expressly preempted states from controlling, eradicating, or
22 preventing the introduction or dissemination of a plant pest
23 from any foreign origin; and
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25 WHEREAS, in 2003, inspection of all foreign agricultural
26 commodities other than plants intended for propagation was
27 transferred from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the U.S.
28 Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, the U.S. Office of General Counsel advised the
32 U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Customs and Border
33 Protection to no longer notify the states regarding information



1 on the entry of invasive species on the grounds of federal
2 preemption; and

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4 WHEREAS, since agricultural inspections have shifted to the
5 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, pest interceptions have
6 dropped drastically resulting in an influx of invasive species
7 to farms and conservation areas across the nation; and

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9 WHEREAS, taro, and other culturally significant and
10 important agricultural crops in Hawaii, are increasingly
11 vulnerable to pest devastation unless the State of Hawaii is
12 provided a method of protecting its resources; now, therefore,

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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
16 that the Legislature respectfully requests that the U.S.
17 Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Homeland
18 Security:

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20 (1) Collaborate and share information with the State of
21 Hawaii to improve detection capabilities and maximize
22 opportunities to prevent invasive species from
23 entering the State; and

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25 (2) Expedite planning and construction of joint agency
26 inspection facilities at the ports of entry to house
27 the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S.
28 Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of
29 Agriculture; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
32 is requested to work with federal agencies to effectuate the
33 goals of this measure; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture,
37 the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security, the Chairperson of the
38 Board of Agriculture, the Director of
39 Transportation, and members of Hawaii's Congressional
40 Delegation.

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43 OFFERED BY: 

