

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2011**

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**REP. CYNTHIA THIELEN ANNOUNCES BILL TO PREVENT  
PLANT THEFT**

In response to a number of complaints in the Kailua area, State Representative Cynthia Thielen (R, 50<sup>th</sup> District) is introducing a bill which establishes monetary retribution to property owners who have been victimized by plant thefts.

This bill establishes that whenever a person is convicted for an offense involving theft of an agricultural product or commodity, in addition to any criminal penalties, the person shall be required to make payment to the property owner for the value of the stolen agricultural products as well as the cost of replanting the agricultural product or commodity.

"Unfortunately thefts of expensive plants not only are costly to replace but ruin private and public landscaping," Thielen said. "Kailua is a beautiful town filled with a variety of plants and flowers which add to the ambiance of our beachside community. Plants which are stolen not only need to be replaced at substantial cost to the property owner, but take time to grow to their previous maturity. Hopefully those witnessing plant thefts will immediately call 911 and report the crime to the police department."

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