HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016 STATE OF HAWAII

H.C.R. NO. 198

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WHEREAS, introduced or non-native species have and will 1 continue to have devastating impacts on Hawaii's agriculture, 2 natural environment, economy, public health, and quality of 3 4 life; and 5 WHEREAS, the State's tourism depends upon Hawaii's unique 6 7 environment; and 8 9 WHEREAS, there are more endangered species in the State of Hawaii than in any other state in the United States, and of all 10 the plants and birds known to be extinct in the nation, two-11 thirds are from Hawaii; and 12 13 WHEREAS, core principles of sustainability are: protection 14 of the environment, maintenance of high and stable levels of 15 economic growth, and social progress that recognizes all 16 stakeholders' needs; and 17 18 WHEREAS, without vigilant inspection, prohibited and 19 restricted insects, diseases, viruses, plants, and animals can 20 be introduced and established in the State, and can endanger the 21 public health, safety, and welfare; and 22 23 WHEREAS, once established, invasive species are a matter of 24 serious public concern, causing millions of dollars in damage to 25 agriculture and the environment, and cannot be eradicated; and 26 27 WHEREAS, there are increased concerns about the State of 28 Hawaii Department of Agriculture's inability to hire inspectors 29 30 in a timely manner; and



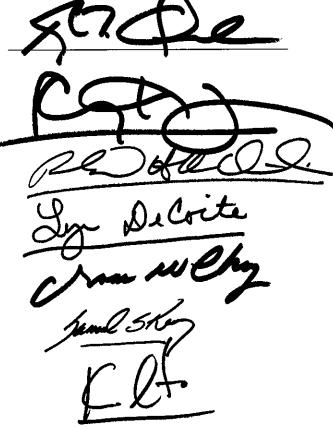
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1 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 150A-52, Hawaii Revised 2 3 Statutes, the Biosecurity Program is designed to prevent the entry into the State and interisland movement of pests and 4 prohibited organisms, as well as eradicate, control, reduce, 5 suppress, seize, and dispose of incipient pest populations and 6 7 prohibited organisms; and 8 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has failed to comply 9 with sections 150A-56 and 150A-57, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by 10 failing to submit reports to the Legislature on the status of 11 the Biosecurity Program for fiscal years 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 12 13 and 2014-2015; and 14 15 WHEREAS, members of the agricultural sector, the 16 environmental sector, and the community have expressed concern over the Department of Agriculture's lack of transparency and 17 progress on the implementation of the Biosecurity Program; and 18 19 WHEREAS, inspection at the ports is considered the best 20 21 quarantine measure to reduce the entry of unwanted plants and animals into Hawaii; and 22 23 WHEREAS, the community believes that interdicting non-24 native species through required inspections at all ports is an 25 26 important priority; now, therefore, 27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 28 29 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that the Auditor is 30 requested to conduct a financial and management audit of the 31 Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of Agriculture; and 32 33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to 34 focus on the current state of the Plant Quarantine Branch and 35 make recommendations on the resources necessary for the Plant 36 Quarantine Branch to fully and properly carry out its purpose 37 38 and responsibilities pursuant to chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised 39 Statutes; and 40



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture 1 is requested to provide any information and other assistance the 2 3 Auditor may require; and 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Auditor is 5 requested to report its findings and recommendations to the 6 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of 7 8 the Regular Session of 2017; and 9 10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the 11 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture. 12 13 14 15 OFFERED BY:



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