
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE
TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species have negative
2 impacts on Hawaii crop and animal production, including
3 declining yields and depressed returns from the cultivation of
4 agricultural products; and
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6 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species are affecting
7 farmers statewide, and negative impacts are particularly acute
8 where the invasive and endangered species are relatively
9 recently introduced and traditional methods for control have not
10 been established; and
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12 WHEREAS, invasive and endangered species directly affect
13 the growing of crops for local consumption and directly impact
14 Hawaii farmers' ability to supply fresh local crops to people in
15 the State; and
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17 WHEREAS, while farmers and ranchers have experienced the
18 negative impacts of invasive and endangered species, they don't
19 necessarily have the training to document the economic and
20 agricultural harm being caused by these damaging pests; and
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22 WHEREAS, documenting the impacts of invasive and endangered
23 species on Hawaii agriculture is necessary to facilitate a
24 unified federal, state, and county effort to address this
25 agricultural threat; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
28 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the



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1 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
2 Agriculture is requested to convene a task force to document and
3 collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory
4 consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and
5 endangered species in Hawaii; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the
8 following persons or their designated representatives to serve
9 as members of the task force:

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11 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, who is
12 requested to serve as Chairperson of the task force;
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- 14 (2) One representative each from the Natural Resources
15 Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Rural
16 Development Agency of the United States Department of
17 Agriculture;
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- 19 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
20 Resources;
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- 22 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the
23 Agribusiness Development Corporation;
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- 25 (5) The Director of Health;
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- 27 (6) One representative each from the College of Tropical
28 Agriculture and Human Resources and the Economic
29 Research Organization of the University of Hawaii;
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- 31 (7) One representative each from the Planning Departments
32 of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai and the
33 Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and
34 County of Honolulu;
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- 36 (8) One representative each from the Offices of Economic
37 Development of the City and County of Honolulu, County
38 of Maui, and County of Kauai, and the Department of
39 Research and Development of the County of Hawaii;
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- 41 (9) One representative from the Hawaii Invasive Species
42 Council; and



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2 (10) One representative from the Hawaii Farm Bureau
3 Federation; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in coordination
6 with the United States Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii
7 Department of Agriculture, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife
8 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the College of
9 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Cooperative Extension
10 Service and other scientific researchers at the University of
11 Hawaii, and the Invasive Species Committees on each respective
12 island, is requested to conduct population assessments of
13 invasive and endangered species affecting Hawaii's agricultural
14 industry; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, in conducting
17 population assessments, is requested to examine the following:
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- 19 (1) Population sizes, geographical ranges, and
20 distributions of invasive and endangered species;
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22 (2) Impacts of invasive and endangered species on
23 agricultural crops and on nonagricultural land uses,
24 including botanical gardens, golf courses, and
25 watershed areas;
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27 (3) Whether populations of invasive and endangered species
28 travel from watershed and wildlife habitats to areas
29 populated and cultivated by people in order to feed;
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31 (4) The roosting and shelter areas of invasive and
32 endangered species, in relation to their feeding
33 areas; and
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35 (5) The rates at which populations of invasive and
36 endangered species are increasing or decreasing; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
39 develop best management practices to control, eradicate, or
40 relocate invasive and endangered species from Hawaii's
41 agricultural areas, including:
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(1) Protocols to protect farms and ranches from the negative impacts of invasive and endangered species, control invasive species in a humane manner, and assist appropriate wildlife agencies in developing habitats for Hawaii's endangered species; and

(2) Public education protocols for explaining the negative impacts of invasive and endangered species on agriculture and the steps taken by the task force to address those negative impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, and the Under Secretary of the Rural Development Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture; the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; the Director of Health; the Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and the Project Manager of the Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii; the Directors of Planning of the Counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; the Director of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu; the Executive Director of Economic Development of the City and County of Honolulu; the Director of Economic Development of the County of Kauai; the Coordinator of Economic Development of the County of Maui; the Director of Research and Development of the County of Hawaii; the Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

OFFERED BY:


