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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO REJECT THE IMPORT PLAN  
AND QUARANTINE EXEMPTION REQUESTED BY KONA HILLS, LLC.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry  
2 Division Plant Quarantine Branch prevents the introduction and  
3 spread of harmful pests and diseases into the State, certifies  
4 plants for export out of the State, and is also the State's  
5 primary resource for information on importing plants, insects,  
6 microorganisms, and non-domestic animals to Hawaii; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine  
9 Program began more than one hundred years ago when, in 1888,  
10 King David Kalakaua decreed that in order to protect the coffee  
11 industry in Hawaii, new coffee plants would not be allowed into  
12 the islands, and two years later, laws were enacted to prevent  
13 the introduction of injurious insect pests and plant diseases;  
14 and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch is the State's first  
17 line of defense in keeping pests out of the islands by  
18 monitoring whether eggs of harmful insects hatch on imported  
19 plants or if diseases that could jeopardize the health of other  
20 plants, which may appear only after significant growth of plants  
21 imported into the State; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the quarantine process differs based on the plant  
24 being imported and procedurally, coffee germplasm and coffee  
25 plants are required to go through a one-year quarantine process  
26 to ensure that the significant and crucial coffee industry of  
27 Hawaii is protected; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, the State's process for acquiring an exemption  
30 from the plant quarantine rules is a rigorous process, which is  
31 overseen by numerous experts in multiple scientific fields, and



1 requires approval by the Board of Agriculture and the Governor;  
2 and

3  
4 WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2017, according to the United States  
5 Department of Agriculture, Hawaii produced more than 36,000,000  
6 pounds of coffee cherry, nearly 2,000,000 pounds more than in  
7 the previous year; and

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9 WHEREAS, according to the USDA's National Agricultural  
10 Statistics Association, the value of Hawaii's coffee crop stands  
11 at more than \$62,000,000, with coffee cherry selling at \$1.71  
12 per pound; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, Kona coffee is world renowned for its excellence  
15 and it is one of Hawaii's most iconic commercial exports; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, the average Kona coffee farm is less than 5 acres  
18 in size and approximately 5,000,000 trees currently comprise the  
19 entire Kona coffee industry; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC is financed by the Atlanta-based  
22 investment company Domain Capital Advisors; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC is seeking to establish an almost  
25 1,900-acre coffee farm in Kealahou on which to plant 2,000,000  
26 trees, which would be the largest coffee farm in the Kona region  
27 of Hawaii Island; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC plans to grow at least six  
30 varieties of coffee, five of which are not currently farmed in  
31 the Kona coffee district and would produce different flavor  
32 profiles from the heritage Kona coffee profile which has been  
33 developed by generations of Kona farmers; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, Kona Hills, LLC has requested an exemption to the  
36 Department of Agriculture's mandatory one-year quarantine period  
37 to import 1,500,000 in-vitro coffee embryos from Costa Rica; and

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39 WHEREAS, coffee rust is a prevalent agricultural disease  
40 found on Costa Rican coffee farms; and




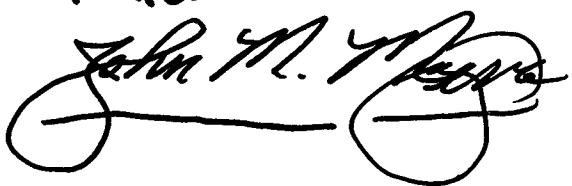
1 WHEREAS, an outbreak of coffee rust could cripple the Kona  
2 coffee industry; and

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4 WHEREAS, the import plan and quarantine exemption sought by  
5 Kona Hills, LLC could endanger the crop yields and financial  
6 security of local Kona coffee farmers; now, therefore,

7  
8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
9 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
10 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
11 Agriculture is urged to reject the import plan and quarantine  
12 exemption requested by Kona Hills, LLC; and

13  
14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
16 the Board of Agriculture, the manager of the Department of  
17 Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Branch, and all members of the  
18 Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch Advisory  
19 Committee on Plants and Animals.  
20  
21  
22

OFFERED BY:

MAR 09 2018

