
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE'S POLLINATOR SPECIES,
THE THREAT THAT SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDES POSE TO SUCH SPECIES,
AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO TAKE MEASURES TO LIMIT
POLLINATOR EXPOSURE TO NEONICOTINOIDS.

1 WHEREAS, pollinator species, including honeybees and other
2 native bees, are a vital part of agricultural production in the
3 State; and
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5 WHEREAS, pollinators are critical to valuable specialty
6 crops, including melons, watermelons, cucumbers, squash,
7 lychees, mangoes, macadamia nuts, coffee beans, eggplants,
8 avocados, guavas, herbs; and some flowering plants, including
9 sunflowers; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 2007, the Department of Agriculture estimated
12 that nearly seventy percent of the State's food crops depend on
13 pollination by bees and other pollinator species; and
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15 WHEREAS, Hawaii boasts a variety of native pollinators,
16 including honeycreeper birds, Hawaiian yellow-faced bees, and
17 Kamehameha butterflies; and
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19 WHEREAS, many of these iconic species are in peril, and
20 twenty species of honeycreepers are already extinct; and
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22 WHEREAS, in 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife
23 Service added the following seven species of Hawaiian yellow-
24 faced bees to the federal lists of endangered and threatened
25 wildlife and plants: *Hylaeus anthracinus*, *Hylaeus longiceps*,
26 *Hylaeus assimulans*, *Hylaeus facilis*, *Hylaeus hilaris*, *Hylaeus*
27 *kuakea*, and *Hylaeus mana*; and
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1 WHEREAS, these native bee species face an even greater risk
2 from the use of certain systemic insecticides; and
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4 WHEREAS, scientists and governments around the world have
5 linked the use of systemic insecticides to the rapid decline of
6 honeybees and other pollinators and to the deterioration of
7 pollinator health; and
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9 WHEREAS, scientists and governments have identified a
10 particular class of systemic insecticides, called
11 neonicotinoids, as one significant threat to the existence of
12 pollinator species; and
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14 WHEREAS, systemic insecticides like neonicotinoids are
15 absorbed into treated plants and distributed throughout their
16 vascular systems, and are highly persistent in the environment;
17 and
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19 WHEREAS, despite recognition of their danger, the use of
20 neonicotinoids is ubiquitous, from seed coating to applications
21 on fruits and vegetables, grasses and lawns, and backyard
22 ornamentals; and
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24 WHEREAS, governmental agencies around the world have taken
25 action to limit the toxic impacts of neonicotinoids; and
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27 WHEREAS, in 2013, the European Union voted to suspend the
28 use of three major neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin,
29 and thiamethoxam), on certain agricultural crops pending a
30 review of their safety; and
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32 WHEREAS, in 2015, the United States Environmental
33 Protection Agency announced a moratorium on approvals for new
34 outdoor uses of neonicotinoids; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
37 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
38 Representatives concurring, that this body recognizes that
39 pollinator species, both native and non-native, play a critical
40 role in the State's local food production, agricultural economy,
41 and natural ecosystems; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that
2 restricting exposure of the State's honeybees, native bees,
3 insects, birds, and other pollinators to neonicotinoid
4 insecticides is necessary to protect these species and the
5 State's agricultural economy and natural ecosystems; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
8 Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture are urged to
9 take measures, as authorized by law, to limit pollinator
10 exposure to neonicotinoids; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
13 Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture are
14 requested to submit a report of their specific measures taken,
15 and any proposed legislation necessary to limit pollinator
16 exposure to neonicotinoids, to the Legislature no later than
17 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
18 2020; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
22 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Chairperson of the Board
23 of Agriculture.
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