

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, AND
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE
MITIGATION PLAN WITH SHORT AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO
ADDRESS THE SPREAD OF AND ERADICATE GORSE ON HAWAII ISLAND.

1 WHEREAS, the 'Āina Mauna lands on Hawaii island include over
2 fifty thousand acres of the State's most pristine environments,
3 representing the natural beauty of the islands and holding
4 significant value for native and endemic species, as well as for
5 Hawaiian culture; and

6
7 WHEREAS, an invasive plant species, gorse, is a blight
8 affecting over twenty percent of the 'Āina Mauna lands and
9 rapidly spreading, rendering the affected land nearly useless,
10 and causing what could be irreversible harm to the environment,
11 which could potentially create a devastating ecological disaster
12 if not immediately addressed; and

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14 WHEREAS, gorse seeds remain viable in the soil for up to
15 seventy years, while unmanaged ungulate populations and careless
16 removal efforts continue to spread the invasive plant species,
17 creating an ecological crisis that must be addressed with
18 comprehensive and long term solutions; and

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20 WHEREAS, there may be commercial applications in harvesting
21 gorse, including use as feedstock, oils, and biofuel that could
22 be used by energy facilities, as well as the potential for
23 sustainable native forestry operations on the island; and

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25 WHEREAS, due to lack of resources and long term strategy,
26 the response by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands thus far
27 has been inadequate, and gorse is continuing to spread and
28 ravage the 'Āina Manua lands; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Hawaiian Home
4 Lands is urged to convene a task force with the Department of
5 Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Invasive
6 Species Council, and other interested parties to develop a
7 comprehensive mitigation plan with short and long term solution
8 to address the spread of and eradicate gorse on Hawaii island;
9 and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force will leverage
12 all county, state, and federal agencies to address the problem
13 and explore potential commercial opportunities, such as the use
14 in biofuel, feedstock, and oils, that would help address the
15 issue; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
18 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
19 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
20 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
21 2021; and

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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
25 Hawaiian Homes Commission, Chairperson of the Board of Land and
26 Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture,
27 Hawaii Invasive Species Council Program Supervisor, and Mayors
28 of each county.
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OFFERED BY:

~~AC~~ *AC* *AC* *AC*
Gloria K. Waiheke
Ross & RL

[Signature]
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