

MAR 12 2021

S.R. NO. 194

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND ITS QUARANTINE FACILITIES OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.

1 WHEREAS, responding quickly to newly detected invasive
2 species can often prevent the species from becoming firmly
3 established, saving taxpayers money in the long-term; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
6 has stated that foreign pests and disease already cost the
7 United States' economy tens of billions of dollars annually in
8 lower crop values, eradication programs, emergency payments to
9 farmers, and increased costs for food and other natural
10 resources; and
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12 WHEREAS, the recent detection of coffee leaf rust fungus
13 has shown that the existing facilities are unable to deal with
14 the demand for disease resistant stock; and
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16 WHEREAS, with the current spread of coffee leaf rust
17 fungus, State agencies lack the resources, such as quarantine
18 facilities and response mechanisms, to deal with these newly
19 identified threats and may be missing opportunities to eliminate
20 them; and
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22 WHEREAS, because the introduction of coffee leaf rust
23 fungus as an alien invasive species poses serious problems to
24 the State's ecosystem, any introduction of alien invasive
25 species via the airports or any other entry points throughout
26 the State may lead to significant cumulative impacts; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of
29 Agriculture is tasked with preventing the introduction and
30 spread of harmful pests and diseases into the State by
31 regulating domestic import, performing border inspections, and
32 facilitating post-border detection and control of agricultural
33 pests; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of
36 Agriculture is a critical component in meeting the threat of



1 invasive species entering Hawai'i and spreading throughout
2 Hawai'i through the State's ports of entry; and
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4 WHEREAS, even with the expansion of existing facilities
5 with a \$1,000,000 increase over two years, the increase in
6 quarantine capacity needed to meet current demands will likely
7 require an additional two to three years, which may not be
8 timely enough to adequately address the immediate threat to the
9 industry, allowing invasive species to become established in the
10 State and making mitigation efforts more protracted and
11 expensive; and
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13 WHEREAS, the USDA is currently allocating \$70,000,000 to
14 support three hundred eighty-three projects under the Plant Pest
15 and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and the
16 National Clean Plant Network Programs under the authority of the
17 Plant Protection Act Section 7721 to strengthen the nation's
18 infrastructure for pest detection and surveillance,
19 identification, threat mitigation, safeguard the nursery
20 production system, and respond to plant pest emergencies in
21 ensuring the availability of pathogen-free, disease-free, and
22 pest-free certified material; and
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24 WHEREAS, since 2009, the USDA has supported more than four
25 thousand four hundred projects and provided nearly \$670,000,000
26 in funding through the Plant Pest and Disease Management and
27 Disaster Prevention Program, allowing the USDA and its partners
28 to quickly detect and rapidly respond to invasive plant pests
29 and diseases; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has not taken
32 advantage of federal funding opportunities to increase the
33 capacity to appropriately quarantine regulated plant materials
34 that will benefit growers, which would enhance its ability to
35 prevent the entry of invasive species through increased
36 screening and enforcement abilities; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
40 that the Department of Agriculture is urged to expand its
41 quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the Plant
42 Quarantine Branch; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
3 is urged to apply for federal funding under the USDA through its
4 Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention
5 Program and the National Clean Plant Network Program under the
6 authority of the Plant Protection Act Section 7721 for the
7 purposes of expanding its quarantine facilities to increase
8 screening and enforcement abilities throughout the State; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
12 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY: _____

