

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND QUARANTINE
FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.

1 WHEREAS, mitigating the establishment of newly detected
2 invasive species will save the State and its taxpayers money
3 over the long-term, as mitigation efforts become more protracted
4 and expensive once an invasive species is firmly established;
5 and
6

7 WHEREAS, as an island state, Hawai'i relies on the
8 importation of food, materials, and other resources through its
9 air and seaports, which creates an opportunity for accompanying
10 pests to inadvertently slip through the state-owned detection
11 systems; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Plant Quarantine Branch of the Department of
14 Agriculture is the primary agency tasked with detecting and
15 eliminating threats from invasive species that would otherwise
16 be introduced into the State; and
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18 WHEREAS, in 2020, the coffee leaf rust pathogen was
19 discovered for the first time in the United States within
20 Hawai'i, which exposed gaps in state mitigative resources, such
21 as plant quarantine facilities and response mechanisms to deal
22 with newly-identified threats and the ability to respond to them
23 appropriately; and
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25 WHEREAS, the State's response to the coffee leaf rust
26 crisis has been predominantly focused on the importation of
27 rust-resistant coffee varieties that must be quarantined for at
28 least one year, unless exempt as determined by the Board of
29 Agriculture under certain conditions; and
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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture testified on Senate
32 Bill No. 2908 (2022) that it recognizes the importance of having
33 adequate facilities for quarantine purposes and plans to submit



1 a capital improvement project request to improve the Plant
2 Quarantine Branch at the Plant Inspection Office in Honolulu,
3 which would increase its quarantine capacity by fifty percent;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, existing state-owned plant quarantine facilities
7 lack the capacity to mitigate the demand for disease-resistant
8 stock, as well as adequately respond to newly detected invasive
9 species and prevent the spread of those species within the
10 State; and

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12 WHEREAS, expanding existing state-owned and managed plant
13 quarantine facilities would increase the State's ability to
14 respond to and eliminate threats from invasive species,
15 including coffee leaf rust; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
20 Agriculture is requested to expand plant quarantine facilities
21 administered by the Plant Quarantine Branch; and

22
23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
24 is requested to submit a report of findings and recommendations
25 relating to the expansion of plant quarantine facilities,
26 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
27 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
28 of 2023; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
32 Board of Agriculture.

33
34
35 OFFERED BY:

A large, bold, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'DKA' followed by a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.