

MAR 11 2022

## SENATE 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  
17

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  
34 a capital improvement project request to improve the Plant  
35 Quarantine Branch at the Plant Inspection Office in Honolulu,



1 which would increase its quarantine capacity by fifty percent;  
2 and  
3

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

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

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
17 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to expand plant  
18 quarantine facilities administered by the Plant Quarantine  
19 Branch; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
22 is requested to submit a report of findings and recommendations  
23 relating to the expansion of plant quarantine facilities,  
24 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
25 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
26 of 2023; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
30 Agriculture.  
31  
32  
33

OFFERED BY: 

