HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXAMINE ORGANIC PESTICIDES FOR AUTHORIZED USE IN THE STATE.

WHEREAS, in recent years, organic pesticides have emerged as a popular alternative to conventional synthetic pesticides; and

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WHEREAS, organic pesticides usually come from natural sources, such as plants, minerals, or microorganisms, and are minimally processed; and

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WHEREAS, many farmers prefer organic pesticides over synthetic alternatives because organic pesticides typically break down faster in the environment, leaving no residual activity after a relatively short time; and

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WHEREAS, organic pesticides, particularly biological insecticides, can also be selective in the types of pests controlled, which reduces potential harm to non-target species such as pollinators and other beneficial insects; and

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WHEREAS, Hawaii has been impacted by various agricultural diseases and invasive species that threaten the State's agricultural industries; and

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WHEREAS, identifying organic pesticides that can bolster Hawaii's agricultural sustainability while minimizing lasting environmental effects is a worthwhile endeavor; and

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WHEREAS, currently, pesticide manufacturers, and other authorized individuals, must submit an application to the Department of Agriculture to license pesticides for use in the State; and

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WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture should be more proactive in finding safe, organic pesticides for Hawaii's local farmers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to:

(1) Study organic pesticides that are currently licensed or authorized for use in the State; and

(2) Find organic pesticides that are not currently licensed or authorized for use, or otherwise prohibited, in the State, and test those organic pesticides for authorized use in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations regarding organic pesticides, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

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

OFFERED BY

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