HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE A PLAN TO DEVELOP AN INVASIVE PESTS PLACARD PROGRAM AND ASSESS THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, invasive pests are animals, insects, diseases agents, or other organisms in a stage of development that is detrimental or potentially harmful to agriculture, horticulture, animal or public health, or natural resources including native biota or that has an adverse effect on the environment, as determined by the Board of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, invasive pests have spread rapidly across Oahu due to nurseries, farms, and other agriculture-related businesses selling plants containing invasive pests to members of the public; and

WHEREAS, the spread of invasive pests can and has been traced back to members of the public unknowingly buying plants containing invasive pests and transporting the plants to various locations around Oahu; and

WHEREAS, this body finds that members of the public would be less likely to purchase plants containing invasive pests if nurseries, farms, and other agriculture-related businesses were required to show a placard stating their invasive pest status within the classification system developed by the Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, this invasive pest classification system should explicitly clarify the severity of invasive pest infestation and the type of invasive pests that have been reported by the Department of Agriculture to be present on the nursery, farm, or agriculture-related business; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to create a plan to develop an Invasive Species Placard Program and assess the resources needed to implement the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to submit the plan, the assessment of the resources needed to implement the program, and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; 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:

FEB 2 2 2024