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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING CONGRESS, THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE INCREASED AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO THE INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEES AND HAWAI‘I ANT LAB WITHIN THE PACIFIC COOPERATIVE STUDIES UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I AT MĀNOA.

1           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii is home to unique and fragile  
2 ecosystems, many of which are found nowhere else in the world,  
3 and protecting these ecosystems is crucial to preserving  
4 Hawaii's natural heritage, biodiversity, and the overall health  
5 of the environment; and

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7           WHEREAS, invasive species, both plant and animal, pose one  
8 of the greatest threats to Hawaii's native flora and fauna,  
9 disrupting natural processes, outcompeting native species,  
10 introducing diseases, and altering habitats, often with  
11 irreversible consequences; and

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13           WHEREAS, the impact of invasive species extends beyond  
14 environmental damage, severely affecting Hawaii's agricultural  
15 sector, a key pillar of the State's economy, by damaging crops,  
16 reducing yields, and increasing production costs; and

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18           WHEREAS, invasive species also threaten Hawaii's tourism  
19 industry by compromising the beauty and biodiversity of natural  
20 landscapes, which are a significant draw for visitors, and by  
21 degrading the quality of outdoor recreational activities such as  
22 hiking and fishing; and

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24           WHEREAS, the economic consequences of invasive species are  
25 wide-ranging, resulting in millions of dollars in lost revenue  
26 from agriculture and tourism, as well as increased costs for  
27 property owners, businesses, and agencies tasked with managing  
28 and mitigating these threats; and



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WHEREAS, the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs), including the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee, Oahu Invasive Species Committee, Kauai Invasive Species Committee, and Hawai'i Ant Lab, have played a critical role in managing and preventing the spread of invasive species throughout the State, focusing on early detection, rapid response, control, and eradication of harmful species that threaten Hawaii's natural ecosystems, economy, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the ISCs serve as an important gap filler by tailoring their target pest lists to be area-specific, addressing localized invasive species threats, and ensuring that control efforts are aligned with the unique needs of each region, thereby maximizing the effectiveness of limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the ISCs rely on limited funding to implement targeted control programs, provide education and outreach to the public, and conduct on-the-ground management actions to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species, which, if left unchecked, could cost the State and residents millions of dollars in damages and lost revenue; and

WHEREAS, investing in invasive species management will protect Hawaii's environment and economy by safeguarding agriculture, tourism, and local industries, while also enhancing the State's resilience to climate change by maintaining healthy ecosystems that support essential services such as water quality, soil stability, and biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, failure to address invasive species in a timely and effective manner will result in long-term ecological and economic damage, costing millions of dollars annually in treatment and mitigation efforts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the Senate concurring, that Congress, the counties of the State, and other relevant agencies are urged to provide increased and sustained funding to the Invasive Species



1 Committees and Hawai'i Ant Lab within the Pacific Cooperative  
2 Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges Congress, the  
5 counties of the State, and other relevant agencies, including  
6 the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural  
7 Resources, to provide sustained funding to the ISCs to  
8 strengthen their ability to combat the growing threat of  
9 invasive species and protect Hawaii's ecosystems and economy;  
10 and

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties, Invasive Species  
13 Committees, and Hawai'i Ant Lab are urged to seek federal grants  
14 to support their efforts to prevent and respond to the spread of  
15 invasive species in the State; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding be directed toward  
18 expanding invasive species control programs to target priority  
19 species, increasing research and monitoring efforts to detect  
20 new invasions early, enhancing public outreach and education to  
21 raise awareness about preventing the spread of invasive species,  
22 supporting interagency and community collaboration to improve  
23 response coordination and resource-sharing, and providing  
24 treatment options for residents and farmers impacted by these  
25 species, including grants for control efforts and the purchase  
26 of treatment supplies; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
29 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the president Pro  
30 Tempore of the United States Senator; Speaker of the United  
31 States of Representatives; members of Hawaii's congressional  
32 delegation; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Chairperson  
33 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director of the  
34 Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at  
35 Mānoa; Mayors of the Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii; and  
36 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

