

MAR 04 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO PETITION THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADDRESS THE LACK OF PARITY BETWEEN HAWAII AND OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES PERTAINING TO THE EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL GOODS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is the only state in the nation that is
2 regulated similarly to United States territories; and

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4 WHEREAS, under title 7 Code of Federal Regulations part
5 318, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States
6 Department of Agriculture may prohibit or restrict the movement
7 in interstate commerce of any plant or plant product from Hawaii
8 and the territories to the continental United States to prevent
9 the introduction of plant pests on the continent; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that
12 it is necessary to prohibit the interstate movement of cut
13 flowers, fruits, vegetables, and plants from Hawaii to the
14 continental United States unless specifically allowed; and

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16 WHEREAS, the list of specifically allows fruits and
17 vegetables is very limited; and

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19 WHEREAS, for the State to add more agricultural commodities
20 to the allowable list, it is required that a petition be
21 submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture; and

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23 WHEREAS, the petition requires a pest risk analysis be
24 conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

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26 WHEREAS, a long-standing problem is that Hawaii waits in
27 the same queue as foreign countries seeking to export products
28 into the United States and the foreign countries' petitions are
29 often deemed a higher priority and therefore expedited; and
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1 WHEREAS, shipments of fruits and vegetables require
2 quarantine treatment, inspection, and authorization by the
3 United States Department of Agriculture; and
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5 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture's
6 quarantine requirements for agricultural commodities grown in
7 Hawaii has severely limited the State's exports; and
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9 WHEREAS, this constraint has seriously impacted Hawaii's
10 agricultural sector as the State's growers must wait years, if
11 not decades, for the United States Department of Agriculture's
12 authorization; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
16 House of Representatives concurring, that Hawaii's congressional
17 delegation is requested to petition the United States Department
18 of Agriculture to address the lack of parity between Hawaii and
19 other states and territories pertaining to the export of
20 agricultural goods; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
24 congressional delegation and Chairperson of the Board of
25 Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

