
SENATE 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
5 part 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 allowed 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 petitions from the
27 State are processed with petitions from foreign countries
28 seeking to export products into the United States and the
29 petitions from foreign countries are often deemed a higher
30 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,
16 that Hawaii's congressional delegation is requested to petition
17 the United States Department of Agriculture to address the lack
18 of parity between Hawaii and other states and territories
19 pertaining to the export of agricultural goods; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
23 congressional delegation and Chairperson of the Board of
24 Agriculture.

