

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1188

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 20 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 91

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 91 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO ADVANCE LEGISLATION AND SUPPORT POLICIES THAT SAFEGUARD INDIVIDUALS IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR LIVESTOCK AND OTHER PROPERTY, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS UNDER THEIR EMPLOYMENT OR CARE BY AMENDING THE STATE'S SELF-DEFENSE LAWS TO DEPRIORITIZE THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for agricultural biosecurity and the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species in Maui County.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture University of Hawai'i System, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Molokai Subcommittee of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, Office of the Mayor of the County of Maui, one member of the Maui County Council, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Mālama Learning Center, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and seventeen individuals.

Your Committee recognizes that the jurisdiction of Maui County covers three islands: Maui, Molokai, and Lanai. Your



Committee finds that Molokai lacks a quarantine facility, there is no island invasive species committee on Lanai, and both islands historically have not had dedicated state agricultural inspectors. Your Committee further recognizes that the cost of controlling invasive species after they become established is significantly higher than the cost of prevention and early intervention. According to testimony received by your Committee, pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog have not yet been detected on Molokai or Lanai, making prevention efforts all the more urgent. This measure aims to safeguard local agriculture and also preserve the environment of the islands in Maui County as repositories for native species and agricultural biodiversity.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 91 and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture and  
Environment,



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MIKE GABBARD, Chair



