
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE, COUNTIES, AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO
PROVIDE INCREASED AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO THE INVASIVE
SPECIES COMMITTEES 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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30 WHEREAS, the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs), including
31 the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, Maui Invasive Species



1 Committee, Molokai Maui Invasive Species Committee, Oahu
2 Invasive Species Committee, and Kauai Invasive Species
3 Committee, have played a critical role in managing and
4 preventing the spread of invasive species throughout the State,
5 focusing on early detection, rapid response, control, and
6 eradication of harmful species that threaten Hawaii's natural
7 ecosystems, economy, and communities; and
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9 WHEREAS, the ISCs serve as an important gap filler by
10 tailoring their target pest lists to be area-specific,
11 addressing localized invasive species threats, and ensuring that
12 control efforts are aligned with the unique needs of each
13 region, thereby maximizing the effectiveness of limited
14 resources; and
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16 WHEREAS, the ISCs rely on limited funding to implement
17 targeted control programs, provide education and outreach to the
18 public, and conduct on-the-ground management actions to prevent
19 the establishment and spread of invasive species, which, if left
20 unchecked, could cost the State and residents millions of
21 dollars in damages and lost revenue; and
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23 WHEREAS, investing in invasive species management will
24 protect Hawaii's environment and economy by safeguarding
25 agriculture, tourism, and local industries, while also enhancing
26 the State's resilience to climate change by maintaining healthy
27 ecosystems that support essential services such as water
28 quality, soil stability, and biodiversity; and
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30 WHEREAS, failure to address invasive species in a timely
31 and effective manner will result in long-term ecological and
32 economic damage, costing millions of dollars annually in
33 treatment and mitigation efforts; now, therefore,
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
36 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
37 of 2025, that the counties, State, and other relevant agencies
38 are urged to provide increased and sustained funding to the
39 Invasive Species Committees within the Pacific Cooperative
40 Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and
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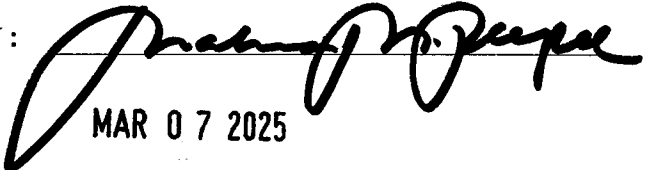


1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the counties,
2 State, and other relevant agencies, including the Department of
3 Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources, to
4 provide sustained funding to the ISCs to strengthen their
5 ability to combat the growing threat of invasive species and
6 protect Hawaii's ecosystems and economy; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding be directed toward
9 expanding invasive species control programs to target priority
10 species, increasing research and monitoring efforts to detect
11 new invasions early, enhancing public outreach and education to
12 raise awareness about preventing the spread of invasive species,
13 supporting interagency and community collaboration to improve
14 response coordination and resource-sharing, and providing
15 treatment options for residents and farmers impacted by these
16 species, including grants for control efforts and the purchase
17 of treatment supplies; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the
21 Board of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and
22 Natural Resources; Director of the Pacific Cooperative Studies
23 Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Mayors of the
24 Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii and Mayor of the City and
25 County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:


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