
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE, COUNTIES, 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
6

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
12

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
17

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
23

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
29



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

10
11 WHEREAS, the ISCs serve as an important gap filler by
12 tailoring their target pest lists to be area-specific,
13 addressing localized invasive species threats, and ensuring that
14 control efforts are aligned with the unique needs of each
15 region, thereby maximizing the effectiveness of limited
16 resources; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the ISCs rely on limited funding to implement
19 targeted control programs, provide education and outreach to the
20 public, and conduct on-the-ground management actions to prevent
21 the establishment and spread of invasive species, which, if left
22 unchecked, could cost the State and residents millions of
23 dollars in damages and lost revenue; and

24
25 WHEREAS, investing in invasive species management will
26 protect Hawaii's environment and economy by safeguarding
27 agriculture, tourism, and local industries, while also enhancing
28 the State's resilience to climate change by maintaining healthy
29 ecosystems that support essential services such as water
30 quality, soil stability, and biodiversity; and

31
32 WHEREAS, failure to address invasive species in a timely
33 and effective manner will result in long-term ecological and
34 economic damage, costing millions of dollars annually in
35 treatment and mitigation efforts; now, therefore,

36
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2025, that the counties, State, and other relevant agencies
40 are urged to provide increased and sustained funding to the
41 Invasive Species Committees within the Pacific Cooperative
42 Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the counties,
3 State, and other relevant agencies, including the Department of
4 Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources, to
5 provide sustained funding to the ISCs to strengthen their
6 ability to combat the growing threat of invasive species and
7 protect Hawaii's ecosystems and economy; and
8

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the
22 Board of Agriculture; Chairperson of the Board of Land and
23 Natural Resources; Director of the Pacific Cooperative Studies
24 Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Mayors of the
25 Counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii and Mayor of the City and
26 County of Honolulu.
27
28
29

