S.C.R. NO. ⁴¹ S.D. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the impacts of invasive species in the State have 1 been severe, harmful, and costly, leading to habitat 2 degradation, extinction of native species, and rising costs in 3 agriculture and livestock production; and 4 5 WHEREAS, the State has recognized the importance of 6 biosecurity as a critical strategy to prevent the introduction 7 and spread of invasive species, which threaten local ecosystems, 8 9 food security, and public health; and 10 WHEREAS, each county faces unique biosecurity challenges 11 due to differences in climate, land use, agriculture, and 12 13 transportation infrastructure, necessitating localized 14 approaches to biosecurity planning and response; and 15 WHEREAS, strengthening biosecurity at the county level will 16 enable proactive identification of risks, enhance early 17 detection and rapid response efforts, and improve coordination 18 with state and federal agencies; and 19 20 WHEREAS, additionally, establishing county-level 21 biosecurity plans will allow each county to prioritize its 22 biosecurity needs and develop community-based strategies for 23 invasive species mitigation; now, therefore, 24 25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third 26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the 27 House of Representatives concurring, that each county is 28 encouraged to establish its own biosecurity plan that 29 30 prioritizes the needs of the county and identifies proposals for legislative changes at the state and county level to promote 31 biosecurity; and 32



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1 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that because biosecurity efforts are an ongoing effort statewide, each county is encouraged to 3 4 collaborate with other counties and the State, including the Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Invasive Species Council, 5 6 in developing its biosecurity plan; and 7 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is encouraged to share its findings and biosecurity plan with the State, 9 including the Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Invasive 10 Species Council; and 11 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the 14 Board of Agriculture, Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Invasive 15 Species Council, and Mayor and Council Chair of each county. 16