
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE CONSUMER AWARENESS OF INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES, REDUCE THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES THROUGH PLANT SALES, AND CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE LABELING FRAMEWORK THAT PROVIDES AN INDICATION OF A PLANT SPECIES' INVASIVENESS RISK WHEN SOLD IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, the introduction of invasive plant species into
2 Hawaii's ecosystem has serious environmental implications,
3 including degrading watershed integrity, accelerating erosion,
4 and decreasing biodiversity; and

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6 WHEREAS, invasive plant species also contribute to
7 significant agricultural harm by causing crop destruction,
8 competing with crops for resources, creating fire hazards,
9 increasing costs, and reducing agricultural productivity; and

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11 WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent of invasive plants in
12 Hawaii have been imported intentionally, primarily through
13 horticulture; and

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15 WHEREAS, invasive plant species are sold within the State
16 and often unknowingly purchased by consumers, highlighting a
17 clear disconnect between consumer values and the information
18 currently available at the point of sale; and

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20 WHEREAS, the list of plants designated by the Department of
21 Agriculture and Biosecurity as noxious weeds, which are
22 prohibited from import or sale in the State, was last updated in
23 1992; and

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25 WHEREAS, the list contains species that are now widespread
26 and omits some invasive plant species that pose the highest
27 risks to the State; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Plant Pono Program was created to help Hawaii
3 residents and members of the nursery industry make informed
4 decisions about plant purchases and sales and reduce the spread
5 of invasive species; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Plant Pono Program provides a publicly
8 accessible website and resources that allow users to select
9 plants that are less likely to escape cultivation and harm
10 native forests, watersheds, agriculture, and biodiversity; and
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12 WHEREAS, initiatives aimed at increasing awareness of
13 invasive plant species have been effective abroad, including in
14 New Zealand, which has implemented successful initiatives like
15 the Weedbusters Program and Great Weeds Hunt, which seek to
16 reduce the population of invasive plant species through public
17 education and community engagement; and
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19 WHEREAS, despite this initiative, issues related to
20 invasive species persist, demonstrating the need for further
21 collaborative efforts to raise consumer awareness about the
22 potential invasiveness of plants at a time and place when
23 consumers are making plant purchasing decisions; now, therefore,
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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
28 Agriculture and Biosecurity is requested to convene a working
29 group to improve consumer awareness of invasive plant species,
30 reduce the spread of invasive species through plant sales, and
31 create a comprehensive labeling framework that provides an
32 indication of a plant species' invasiveness risk when sold in
33 the State; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of
36 Agriculture and Biosecurity, or the Chairperson's designee, is
37 requested to serve as chairperson of the working group; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the working
40 group is requested to invite a representative from each of the
41 following organizations to participate in the working group:
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- 1 (1) Hawai'i Farm Bureau;
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- 3 (2) Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association;
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- 5 (3) Hawai'i Farmers Union United;
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- 7 (4) Retail Merchants of Hawai'i;
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- 9 (5) Hawaii Invasive Species Council;
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- 11 (6) Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
 14 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
 15 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
 16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
 17 of 2027; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall cease
 20 to exist on June 30, 2027; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 24 Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Executive Director of the
 25 Hawai'i Farm Bureau; President of the Hawaii Floriculture and
 26 Nursery Association; Chief Executive Officer of Hawai'i Farmers
 27 Union United; Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of
 28 the Retail Merchants of Hawai'i; Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii
 29 Invasive Species Council; and President of the Landscape
 30 Industry Council of Hawai'i.

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