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HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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RESOLUTION 21-1

SUPPORTING THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF PACIFIC REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FACILITIES IN HAWAII AND COMMITTING AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i, as an archipelago of volcanic origin, has unique natural and cultural resources threatened by the introduction, spread and establishment of non-native invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the term “biocontrol” or “biological control” refers to the selection and introduction of a natural enemy to control an introduced pest that poses risks to the environment, economy, human health, and human well-being; and

WHEREAS, certain types of invasive species have spread beyond the ability to effectively control through chemical and/or mechanical means; and

WHEREAS, biological control is a cost-effective and sustainable tool that has been successfully employed across the globe for long-term management of some of the world’s worst pests and weeds; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i has a long history of safely and effectively using biological control to reduce pest populations and their impacts for the benefit of the islands’ forests, rangelands, farms, nurseries, and people; and

WHEREAS, federal and state agencies in Hawai‘i have a long history of collaboration to meet the needs of Hawai‘i and the Pacific islands; and

WHEREAS, capacity for biocontrol research has not kept pace with the introduction and spread of invasive species; and

WHEREAS, current biocontrol programs are poorly equipped for present and future needs due to reduced staffing and under-sized, aging facilities that lack adequate containment facility standards to work on smaller organism; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, Hawai‘i Department of Land & Natural Resources, the University of Hawai‘i, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Agricultural Research Services and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services together with

other federal & state agencies, private and non-profit partners formed the Biocontrol Working Group to collaboratively pursue the planning, construction, and operation of new, state-of-the-art biological control research and development facilities; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council recognizes the need for new regional biological control research facilities to collaboratively conduct and develop safe and effective biological controls for priority agricultural and environmental pests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council recognizes Hawaii's need for modern biocontrol facilities and additional researchers as a top priority in the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan and the Western Governors Association's initiative on biosecurity and invasive species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council supports the efforts of the Biocontrol Working Group to pursue funding assistance toward planning, construction, and eventual operation of new, state-of-the-art biological control facilities in Hawai'i that can serve as a regional research center for biological control programs benefiting Hawaii, the mainland U.S. and the Pacific region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai'i, the President of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the State House of Representatives.

Adopted by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council on the following date: June 9, 2021.

Suzanne D. Case

Suzanne D. Case, Dept. of Land & Natural Resources

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Gracelda Simmons, Dept. of Health

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