



RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM CROPS AND THE USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES ON HAWAII'S BEE POPULATIONS.

WHEREAS, bees are essential to Hawaii's agricultural industry and wild plant life because they are the primary pollinators of flowering plants; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that approximately \$200 million of Hawaii grown produce is dependent on honey bee pollination; and

WHEREAS, in addition to supporting local crop production, Hawaii has a significant beekeeping industry and is one of the world's major exporters of queen bees, supplying 25 to 50 percent of the queen bees used in the mainland United States and Canada for pollination services; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's domestic and feral bee populations have declined significantly in recent years due to pests such as the Varroa mite, small hive beetle, and the nosema ceranea parasite; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above pests, it has been postulated that the production of genetically modified organism (GMO) crops may also be contributing towards the decline of bee populations because certain GMO crops are engineered to emit toxins that may be harmful to bees; and

WHEREAS, in addition to toxins produced by GMO crops, seeds for GMO crops are commonly coated with neonicotinoid insecticides, which are known to be toxic to bees, with even non-lethal exposure making bees more susceptible to pests such as the Varroa mite, small hive beetle, and nosema ceranea parasite; and

WHEREAS, because neonicotinoids are "systemic" insecticides that are absorbed by plants, they can have long-term effects on insects, including bees; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoid insecticides have been restricted or banned in several European countries because of the harmful effect they may have on bees; and

WHEREAS, GMO crops are being cultivated, and neonicotinoid insecticides are being applied, on Oahu and elsewhere in the State; and



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WHEREAS, further decline of Hawaii's bee population is likely to have detrimental consequences for Hawaii's agricultural industry, backyard gardeners, wild plant life, and the local beekeeping industry; and

WHEREAS, the Council feels that the full impact of GMO crop production and the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on the health of Hawaii's domestic and feral bees has not been sufficiently researched; and

WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii is the State of Hawaii's leading research institution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the University of Hawaii is urged to study the impact of GMO crop production and the use of neonicotinoid insecticides on the health and population of Hawaii's domestic and feral bees; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of Hawaii and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

INTRODUCED BY:



DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

JUN 05 2012
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers