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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Without a doubt, fruit flies are Hawaii's most  
2 destructive agricultural pests. The economic impact of fruit  
3 fly infestation in Hawaii amounts to more than \$200 million  
4 annually. There are several different fruit flies in Hawaii and  
5 each one's introduction occurred in different years. The first  
6 fruit fly arrived in 1895 and the last in 1983. Since they have  
7 no natural enemies in Hawaii, their existence has persisted over  
8 the years.

9           Due to the fruit fly's danger to agriculture in the  
10 continental United States and other parts of the world, Hawaii  
11 has been under fruit fly quarantine for over seventy years. And  
12 although locally grown produce may be treated, the  
13 decontamination process is expensive.

14           Since the threat of spreading fruit flies to the  
15 continental United States is so serious, the federal government  
16 established the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
17 Bureau of Entomology in Hawaii in 1912 to conduct long term  
18 research on fruit flies. Nearly all of the measures used to



1 control the spread of fruit flies have been developed by the  
2 Bureau in Hawaii.

3 In 1999, the USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) funded  
4 a five-year area-wide fruit fly pest management system (program)  
5 with the goal "to develop and implement environmentally  
6 acceptable, biologically based, sustainable pest management  
7 strategies that reduce use of the organophosphate and carbamate  
8 insecticides while suppressing fruit flies to economically  
9 manageable levels for the benefit of Hawaii." This program, a  
10 cooperative partnership with ARS, the University of Hawaii  
11 college of tropical agriculture and human resources (CTAHR), and  
12 the department of agriculture (DOA), was implemented in large  
13 targeted areas on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui. A  
14 "1-2-3 procedure" was used to sanitize, annihilate males, and  
15 kill both male and female fruit flies. The program was a  
16 success in suppressing the fruit fly damage and has demonstrated  
17 a true collaboration between public agencies, the University of  
18 Hawaii, and farmers.

19 The fight against the fruit fly infestation, however, is  
20 not over. The success of the program has raised the question of  
21 whether fruit flies can be eradicated in not only large areas of  
22 an island but from the entire State. Thus, a follow-up program



1 is proposed as a joint effort by the ARS; CTAHR; DOA; the  
2 University of Hawaii Center for genomics, proteomics, and  
3 bioinformatics research initiative; and the Maui High  
4 Performance Computing Center. The research development team  
5 will keep its focus on the practical goal of large-scale fruit  
6 fly suppression and potential eradication.

7 This proposed project will request funding through a  
8 \$5,000,000 federal appropriation. However, if the appropriation  
9 is approved, the money will not be available until the middle of  
10 2007, and many preliminary tasks like planning the project and  
11 gathering data for the federal proposal need to start this year.  
12 Thus, the legislature finds that interim funding for the program  
13 is needed to get the project started and also to demonstrate to  
14 the federal agency that the State is committed to seeing the  
15 fruit fly eradicated in Hawaii.

16 The purpose of this Act is to provide interim money to the  
17 program to begin the eradication of fruit flies from Hawaii.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000, or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to  
21 provide interim funding for the fruit fly eradication program.

22 The moneys shall be used to:



- 1 (1) Provide preliminary data to be included in the federal
- 2 proposal;
- 3 (2) Demonstrate to the federal agency that the State of
- 4 Hawaii is dedicated to seeing the fruit fly eradicated
- 5 in Hawaii; and
- 6 (3) Preliminarily plan and organize the eradication
- 7 program.

8 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the  
 9 department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

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~~Paul Jones~~  
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HB 2767

**Report Title:**

Fruit Fly Eradication Program; Interim Funding; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates interim funding for the fruit fly eradication program.

