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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 is severe, leading to millions of  
4 dollars in lost agricultural production. There are several  
5 different types of fruit flies in Hawaii, and each type's  
6 introduction occurred in different years. The first fruit fly  
7 arrived in 1895 and the most recent in 1983. Since they have no  
8 natural enemies in Hawaii, their existence has persisted over  
9 the years.

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

15           Since the threat of spreading fruit flies to the  
16 continental United States is so serious, the federal government  
17 established the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau  
18 of Entomology in Hawaii in 1912 to conduct long-term research on



1 fruit flies. Nearly all of the measures used to control the  
2 spread of fruit flies have been developed by the Bureau in  
3 Hawaii.

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

20 The fight against the fruit fly infestation, however, is  
21 not over. The success of the program has raised the question of  
22 whether fruit flies can be eradicated in not only large areas of

1 an island but from the entire state. Thus, a follow-up program  
2 has been proposed as a joint effort by the Agriculture Research  
3 Service; University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture  
4 and human resources; department of agriculture; University of  
5 Hawaii center for genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics  
6 research initiative; and the Maui high performance computing  
7 center. The research development team will keep its focus on  
8 the practical goal of large-scale fruit fly suppression and  
9 potential eradication.

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

19 The purpose of this Act is to provide interim funding to  
20 begin the eradication of fruit flies from Hawaii.

21 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to provide  
2 interim funding for the fruit fly eradication program. The  
3 moneys shall be used to:

4 (1) Provide preliminary data to be included in the federal  
5 proposal;

6 (2) Demonstrate to the federal agency that the State is  
7 dedicated to seeing the fruit fly eradicated in  
8 Hawaii; and

9 (3) Preliminarily plan and organize the eradication  
10 program.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
12 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Fruit Fly Eradication Program; Interim Funding; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates interim funding for the fruit fly eradication program. (HB2767 HD2)

