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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the unchecked spread  
2 of invasive species is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's  
3 economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of  
4 Hawaii's people. Invasive pests can cause millions of dollars  
5 in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the  
6 destruction of native forests, the spread of diseases, and the  
7 quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

8           Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the  
9 destructive power of invasive pests. In Guam, the accidental  
10 introduction of the brown tree snake has resulted in widespread  
11 devastation. Without natural predators or competition for food,  
12 brown tree snake populations have grown exponentially, causing  
13 mass extinctions of endemic birds. Where there were once bird  
14 songs, the silent forests of Guam are now home to as many as  
15 fifteen thousand snakes per square mile. Just one new pest like  
16 the brown tree snake could forever change the character of the  
17 Hawaiian islands.



1           Despite our ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate  
2   invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly  
3   at risk from insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds,  
4   and other invasive pests. The coqui frog, *Salvinia molesta*,  
5   *Miconia calvescens*, ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little  
6   fire ant are all present in Hawaii, disrupting the delicate  
7   balance of our ecosystems, crowding out native species, and  
8   reducing the biodiversity of our islands. Other harmful species  
9   like the papaya mealybug, *Erythrina* gall wasp, Asian citrus  
10   psyllid, and *Varroa* mite have the potential to devastate our  
11   environment and agriculture if allowed to become widespread in  
12   Hawaii and spread unchecked by natural predators. The  
13   legislature finds that inspection of freight brought into the  
14   State is necessary for the protection of the State's ecosystem.

15           The purpose of this Act is to increase the scope of the  
16   existing inspection, quarantine, and eradication service fee to  
17   provide funding for the department of agriculture to conduct  
18   inspections of imported freight to prevent the introduction of  
19   invasive species, and for the facilities necessary to conduct  
20   such inspections. This fee applies only to nonpassenger  
21   freight. Accordingly, this fee is not a duty of tonnage for  
22   entering Hawaiian waters (United States Constitution Article I,



1 Section 10, Clause 3), nor does this fee violate the prohibition  
2 on anti-head taxes on airline passengers (Title 49 United States  
3 Code Section 40116).

4 The legislature also finds that the impact of this fee on  
5 interstate commerce and the importation of goods are  
6 insignificant and that this Act is consistent with the commerce  
7 clause (United States Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause  
8 3), the export-import clause (United States Constitution Article  
9 I, Section 10, Clause 2), and the International Convention for  
10 Safe Containers, 1972, as amended.

11 SECTION 2. Section 150A-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
13 inserted and to read as follows:

14 "Freight" means nonpassenger goods or merchandise  
15 transported in a ship, airplane, train, or vehicle for pay.

16 "Net weight" means the gross weight of the freight minus the  
17 container weight, if any."

18 SECTION 3. Section 150A-5.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "[+]§150A-5.3[+] **Inspection, quarantine, and eradication**  
21 **service fee and charge.** There is imposed a fee for the  
22 inspection, quarantine, and eradication of invasive species



1 contained in any freight, including but not limited to marine  
 2 commercial container shipment, air freight, or any other means  
 3 of transporting freight, foreign or domestic, that is brought  
 4 into the State. The fee shall be paid by the person responsible  
 5 for paying the freight charges to the transportation company,  
 6 who shall collect the fee and forward the payment to the  
 7 department at the port of disembarkation; provided that the  
 8 transportation company shall not be liable for any fee that is  
 9 not paid by the person responsible for paying the freight  
 10 charges to the transportation company. The department shall  
 11 deposit the fee into the pest inspection, quarantine, and  
 12 eradication fund under section 150A-4.5.

13 ~~[The fee shall be computed on the basis of \$1 for each~~  
 14 ~~twenty-foot equivalent unit per container. The department shall~~  
 15 ~~collect the fee at the port of disembarkation and deposit the~~  
 16 ~~fee into the pest [inspection], quarantine, and eradication fund~~  
 17 ~~under section 150A-4.5.] The fee shall be assessed on the net~~  
 18 weight of the imported freight computed on the basis of 50 cents  
 19 for every one thousand pounds of freight brought into the State,  
 20 or part thereof."

21 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Invasive Species; Fees; Freight

**Description:**

Expands the items subject to the inspection, quarantine, and eradication service fee (inspection fee) to include any freight brought into the State. Requires the inspection fee to be assessed based on net weight of imported freight. Designates the person paying the freight charges to a transportation company as the party responsible for paying the fee. Clarifies that the transportation company is not liable for the fee in the event the party responsible for the fee fails to pay it.

(HB2843 SD2)

