
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 one of the greatest threats 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 disease, and the
7 quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

8 Despite our ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate
9 invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly
10 at risk from insects, disease-bearing organisms, weeds, and
11 other invasive pests. The coqui frog, giant salvinia, miconia,
12 ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little fire ant are all
13 present in Hawaii, disrupting the delicate balance of our
14 ecosystems, crowding out native species, and reducing the
15 biodiversity of our islands. Other harmful species like the
16 papaya mealybug, erythrina gall wasp, Asian citrus psyllid, and
17 the varroa mite have the potential to devastate Hawaii's



1 environment and agriculture if allowed to become widespread and
2 remain unchecked by natural predators.

3 The purpose of this Act is to prevent and reduce the
4 intentional introduction and spread of invasive species by
5 establishing and revising penalties appropriate to the harm to
6 the economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle
7 of Hawaii's people caused by the intentional introduction and
8 spread of such pests.

9 SECTION 2. Section 150A-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended as follows:

11 1. By amending subsections (b) and (c) to read:

12 "(b) Any person who violates section 150A-5 shall be
13 guilty of a petty misdemeanor and fined not less than [\$100 and
14 not more than \$10,000.] \$50 and not more than \$5,000. For a
15 second [~~violation~~] offense committed within five years of a
16 prior [~~violation,~~] offense, the person may be fined not less
17 than [~~\$500~~] \$250 and not more than [~~\$25,000.~~] \$15,000.

18 (c) [~~Notwithstanding section 706-640:~~

19 ~~(1)] Any person [or organization that violates] who:~~

20 (1) Violates section 150A-6(3) or 150A-6(4), or owns or
21 intentionally transports, possesses, harbors,
22 transfers, or causes the importation of any snake or



1 other prohibited animal seized under section 150A-
 2 7(b), or whose violation involves an animal that is
 3 prohibited or a plant, animal, or microorganism that
 4 is restricted, without a permit, shall be guilty of a
 5 misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not less than
 6 \$5,000, but not more than \$20,000; ~~and~~

7 (2) ~~[Any person or organization who intentionally]~~
 8 Intentionally transports, harbors, or imports with the
 9 intent to propagate, sell, or release any animal that
 10 is prohibited or any plant, animal, or microorganism
 11 that is restricted, without a permit, shall be guilty
 12 of a class C felony and subject to a fine of not less
 13 than \$50,000, but not more than \$200,000~~[-]~~; or

14 (3) Intentionally imports, possesses, harbors, transfers,
 15 or transports, including through interisland or
 16 intraisland movement, with the intent to propagate,
 17 sell, or release, any pest designated by statute or
 18 rule, unless otherwise allowed by law, shall be guilty
 19 of a class C felony and subject to a fine of not less
 20 than \$50,000, but not more than \$200,000."

21 2. By amending subsection (g) to read:

1 "(g) For purposes of this section, "intent to propagate"
2 shall be presumed when the person or organization in question is
3 found to possess, transport, harbor, or import:

4 (1) Any two or more animal specimens of the opposite sex
5 that are prohibited or restricted, without a
6 permit[+], or are a pest designated by statute or
7 rule;

8 (2) Any three or more animal specimens of either sex that
9 are prohibited or restricted, without a permit[+], or
10 are a pest designated by statute or rule;

11 (3) Any plant or microorganism having the inherent
12 capability to reproduce and that is restricted,
13 without a permit; or

14 (4) Any specimen that is in the process of reproduction."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on September 14,
18 2047.

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Report Title:

Invasive Species; Penalties

Description:

Prevents and reduces the intentional introduction and spread of invasive species by establishing and revising penalties appropriate to the harm caused by the intentional introduction and spread of invasive species to the economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Effective September 14, 2047. (SD2)

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