
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 Hawaii detector
2 dog program, which began its operation in November 1989, was
3 terminated at the end of June 2009. The remaining personnel
4 were transferred to other inspector positions within the Hawaii
5 department of agriculture, and the remaining detector dogs were
6 retired and placed in appropriate homes within the State. The
7 program was terminated partly because of a twenty-seven per cent
8 funding reduction due to the State's economic recession in 2009.

9 The legislature finds that there are regularly scheduled
10 commercial and military flights that arrive in Hawaii at all
11 hours; therefore, the re-instatement of a dog detection and
12 prevention program is needed to address the anticipated military
13 build-up in the Marianas. In fiscal year 2009, commercial and
14 private flights averaged to 1,137 aircrafts inspected upon
15 arrival, resulting in the clearance of about twenty-five
16 thousand items that were only visually inspected.

17 As a result of the future increase of military in Guam,
18 there is a critical need to secure funding to support the



1 department of agriculture to re-establish a dog detection and
2 prevention program to effectively screen arriving aircraft,
3 ships, and associated cargos for the presence of brown tree
4 snakes from high-risk areas. Additionally, any remaining
5 funding will also be needed for the department of agriculture to
6 further augment the rapid response team to prevent brown tree
7 snakes and other invasive snake species from establishing a
8 population in the State.

9 The legislature finds that invasive species can wreak havoc
10 on Hawaii's fragile ecosystem, environment, and agricultural
11 lands. Invasive species, such as the brown tree snake can
12 damage the balance of the State's ecosystem, threaten native
13 forest vertebrate species, precipitate power outages affecting
14 private, commercial, and military activities, cause widespread
15 loss of domestic birds and pets, and provoke considerable
16 emotional trauma to residents and visitors alike when venomous
17 snakes invade human habitats.

18 In Guam, the brown tree snake was responsible for
19 devastating the majority of the native bird population, and due
20 to the availability of prey and lack of predators in introduced
21 habitats, they have been known to grow to sizes larger than
22 their normal one to two meters (3.3 to 6.6 feet) in length. To



1 minimize the incidents of accidental migration of invasive
2 animal species, trained dogs have been used successfully to
3 search, locate, and assist in the removal of migratory invasive
4 species prior to the departures of outbound military and
5 commercial cargo and transportation vessels from the State.

6 The purpose of this Act is to establish an invasive species
7 detection and prevention program within the department of
8 agriculture, using dogs that are cross-trained to detect and
9 prevent the entry of invasive species, including the brown tree
10 snake.

11 SECTION 2. There is established within the department of
12 agriculture, an invasive species detection and prevention
13 program that uses trained dogs to detect migratory invasive
14 species harbored in cargo carried by military and commercial
15 transportation vessels before the cargo is released.

16 The invasive species detection and prevention program shall
17 contract with private dog handlers within the State to provide
18 and cross-train dogs to detect various migratory invasive
19 species.

20 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit to
21 the legislature not later than twenty days prior to the
22 convening of the 2013 regular session a report on the efficacy



1 of the invasive species detection and prevention program
2 established by this Act.

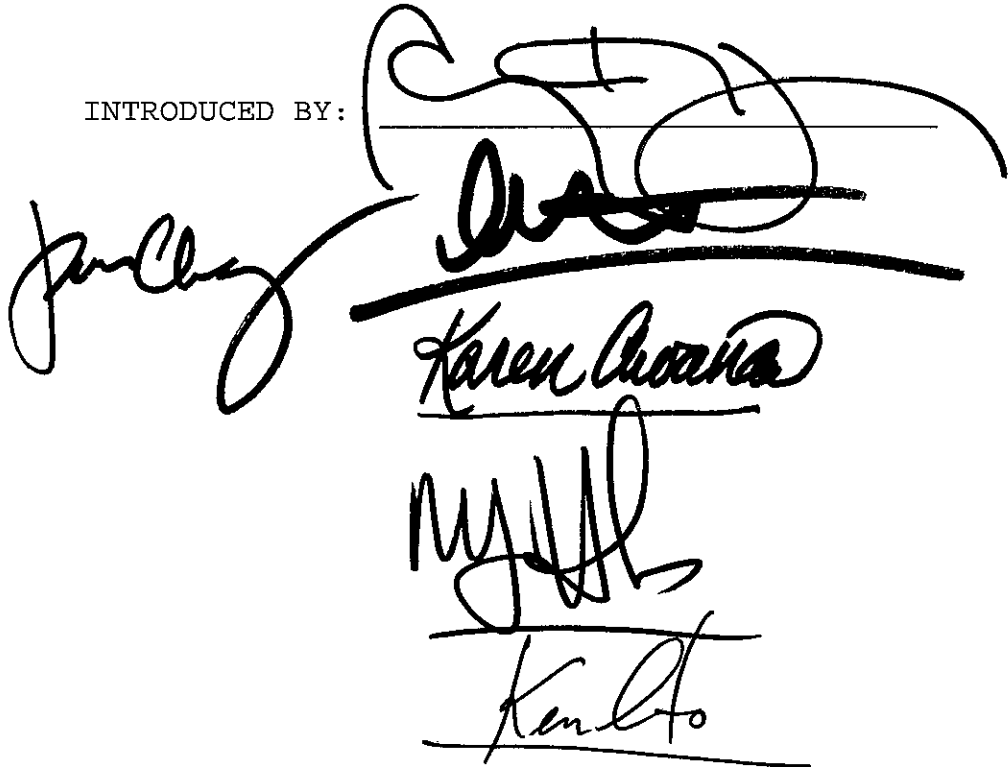
3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for
6 the funding for the Hawaii invasive species detection and
7 prevention program within the department of agriculture.

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

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



The 'INTRODUCED BY:' section contains several handwritten signatures. From top to bottom, they are: a large, stylized signature; a signature that appears to be 'Karen Chuana'; a signature that appears to be 'Mylle'; and a signature that appears to be 'Ken Ho'. Each signature is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 17 2012



H.B. NO. 1943

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Invasive Species Detector Inspector Positions; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii invasive species detection and prevention program within the DOA. Makes an appropriation to the DOA for the funding for the program

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