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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 brown tree snake  
2 is an invasive species that can damage the balance of the  
3 State's ecosystem; threaten native forest vertebrate species;  
4 precipitate power outages affecting private, commercial, and  
5 military activities; cause widespread loss of domestic birds and  
6 pets; and cause considerable emotional trauma to residents and  
7 visitors alike when invading human habitats. The brown tree  
8 snake was responsible for devastating the majority of the native  
9 bird population in Guam. Due to the availability of prey and  
10 lack of predators in introduced habitats such as Guam, brown  
11 tree snakes have been known to grow to sizes larger than their  
12 normal one to two meters (3.3 to 6.6 feet) in length.

13           The legislature has supported and provided for the  
14 biosecurity program under the department of agriculture since  
15 2008, because it recognizes the impact of invasive species to  
16 Hawaii's agriculture, environment, natural resources, public  
17 health, and economy. To improve the effectiveness of the  
18 program, the legislature recommends reinstatement of the



1 detector-dog program. The detector-dog program provides an  
2 important resource to improve interdiction of invasive species  
3 into Hawaii. The dogs excel in the detection of flora, snakes,  
4 aquatic animals, and in public relations. In airport baggage  
5 claim areas, the presence of detector-dogs alone assists in  
6 deterring smuggling of commodities through the passenger  
7 terminal area.

8 Previously, the detector-dog program was funded by federal  
9 funds, and thus limited to brown tree snake interdiction. The  
10 use of state funds will allow the department of agriculture to  
11 use these dogs in other invasive species prevention related  
12 activities. In addition to the brown tree snake inspections,  
13 detector-dogs will be used to inspect incoming airline baggage  
14 and incoming small-package air cargo shipments.

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for detector-  
16 dog inspector positions within the department of agriculture.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$162,540 or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to match  
20 the grant provided by the federal Office of Insular Affairs to  
21 fund the plant quarantine detector-dog program, including one



1 inspector/detector-dog trainer and three inspectors/dog  
2 handlers.

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

5 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a  
6 report on the status of its progress in implementing the  
7 detector-dog program funded by this Act to the legislature no  
8 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2013  
9 regular session.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Invasive Species Detector Inspector  
Positions; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to fund  
the plant quarantine detector-dog program. Effective July 1,  
2012. (HB1943 CD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

