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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. The legislature finds that coffee is the fourth  
2 largest agricultural crop in the State and is a highly valued  
3 commodity in Hawaii's economy. Coffee plantations cover  
4 approximately eight thousand acres of land in the State and  
5 generate total farm revenues of approximately \$30,000,000. In  
6 addition to its value as an agricultural commodity, interest in  
7 coffee farms as part of the agricultural tourism experience is  
8 growing. According to the Hawaii agricultural statistics  
9 service, the value of the agricultural tourism industry, with  
10 one hundred and twelve farms earning income from agricultural  
11 tourism activities, was measured at \$38,800,000, in 2006.  
12 Coffee farmers participating in the agricultural tourism  
13 industry have been able to increase coffee revenues by selling  
14 directly to visitors to their farms, thus increasing the role  
15 that coffee plays in agricultural tourism, which is a growing  
16 part of the State's economy.

17           The legislature also finds that, in recent years, the  
18 coffee berry borer, a small beetle that is harmful to coffee



1 crops worldwide, has infested coffee crops in the Kona and South  
2 Kona regions. The infestation of coffee farms by the coffee  
3 berry borer threatens to dismantle Hawaii's entire coffee  
4 industry because of the nature and speed of the infestations.  
5 Currently, it is estimated that over ninety per cent of coffee  
6 farms in the Kona region are affected by the coffee berry borer,  
7 and it is likely that every farm in the region will be  
8 experiencing some degree of infestation soon. Infestations and  
9 secondary effects of infestation have drastically reduced the  
10 yield of coffee trees and adversely impacted the quantity and  
11 prices of coffee from the Kona region.

12 The legislature also finds that ongoing efforts to control  
13 the damage to crops are critical, now that the coffee berry  
14 borer is present in Hawaii. It can also be expected that the  
15 coffee berry borer will eventually spread to other regions and  
16 counties of Hawaii where coffee is farmed. Methods to combat  
17 the coffee berry borer are used effectively in other coffee-  
18 growing regions of the world. However, farmers in Hawaii need  
19 to be educated about these methods and how to effectively apply  
20 them. In addition, the costs of the required supplies and labor  
21 to implement these methods can be financially prohibitive for  
22 smaller coffee farms in the State.



1           The legislature further finds that because of Hawaii's  
2 unique terrain and the preponderance of small-sized farms with  
3 an aging population of farmers, the existing labor-intensive  
4 methods of combating the coffee berry borer are more challenging  
5 to implement in Hawaii than in other regions of the world. For  
6 that reason, research is needed to develop new methods  
7 appropriate for Hawaii's coffee farms, including those that  
8 could reduce the cost of labor necessary to control the coffee  
9 berry borer. The legislature finds that it is essential to take  
10 immediate action to develop methods to combat the coffee berry  
11 borer and to mitigate the future impacts to other coffee-  
12 producing regions in the State.

13           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
14 control and containment of the damage caused by the coffee berry  
15 borer infestations.

16           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for a  
19 grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the  
20 coffee berry borer task force to fund efforts to control and  
21 mitigate the damage from the coffee berry borer infestation in  
22 Hawaii; provided that no funds shall be expended unless matched



1 by not less than \$200,000 from either private or other  
2 government sources.

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

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



**Report Title:**

Agriculture; Coffee Berry Borer Beetle; Appropriation

**Description:**

Provides a grant for the coffee berry borer task force to fund efforts to control and mitigate damage caused by the coffee berry borer infestation for fiscal year 2014-2015. Effective 07/01/2030. (HD1)

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

