
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 macadamia nuts are
2 among the five top-grossing agricultural commodities in Hawaii.
3 According to the United States Department of Agriculture,
4 National Agricultural Statistics Service, Hawaii harvested an
5 estimated forty-four million pounds in macadamia nut crop during
6 the 2012-2013 crop year. The estimated farm value of macadamia
7 nuts for that same year was \$35,200,000.

8 In March 2005, the macadamia felted coccid, *Eriococcus*
9 *ironsidei*, was discovered on macadamia nut trees in South Kona.
10 Originally from Australia, this insect can cause severe damage
11 to macadamia nut trees when uncontrolled. Initially,
12 insecticidal oils researched and recommended by the University
13 of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human resources
14 were effective at controlling the spread of these insects.
15 After successful suppression of the original infestation in
16 2005, however, infestations of macadamia felted coccid were most
17 recently found in the Pahala area. Although insecticidal oil
18 treatment has been effective in eradicating the insect from



1 young sapling trees in the Pahala area, this treatment has
2 proven ineffective on older macadamia nut trees because the
3 trees are too large to receive adequate coverage of the
4 insecticidal oil. Because insecticidal oil is proving to be
5 ineffective, farmers must develop new methods to control the
6 infestation of macadamia felted coccid, which could devastate
7 the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii.

8 According to the department of agriculture, to develop new
9 methods to control the macadamia felted coccid, researchers
10 must:

- 11 (1) Investigate the role of tree canopy modification and
12 understory plants to encourage the presence of natural
13 enemies to the macadamia felted coccid;
- 14 (2) Analyze the potential of alternative pesticides;
- 15 (3) Determine the impact of macadamia felted coccid on
16 plant health;
- 17 (4) Determine action thresholds for macadamia felted
18 coccid management;
- 19 (5) Determine the phenology of macadamia felted coccid in
20 the field; and



1 (6) Identify and test biological control agents in
2 Australia that could be introduced in Hawaii to
3 control the macadamia felted coccid.

4 The legislature anticipates that the macadamia felted
5 coccid will spread to other regions and counties of Hawaii if
6 uncontrolled and could devastate the macadamia nut industry.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
8 funds for research to develop new methods of preventing and
9 treating macadamia felted coccid infestations.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
13 department of agriculture to research and develop methods for
14 the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid in
15 cooperation with the college of tropical agriculture and human
16 resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
22 college of tropical agriculture and human resources at the



1 University of Hawaii at Manoa to research and develop methods
2 for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid in
3 cooperation with the department of agriculture.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 4. The appropriations made pursuant to sections 2
7 and 3 of this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal
8 biennium for which the appropriations are made; provided that
9 all moneys from the appropriations unencumbered as of June 30,
10 2017, shall lapse as of that date.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



Report Title:

Macadamia Nut Trees; Macadamia Felted Coccid; Agriculture;
Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid. Effective July 1, 2014. (HB1931 HD1)

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