
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

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 Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the
9 destructive power of invasive pests. In Guam, the accidental
10 introduction of the brown tree snake has resulted in widespread
11 devastation. Without natural predators or competition for food,
12 brown tree snake populations have grown exponentially, causing
13 mass extinctions of endemic birds. Where there were once bird
14 songs, the silent forests of Guam are now home to as many as
15 fifteen thousand snakes per square mile. Just one new pest like
16 the brown tree snake could forever change the character of the
17 Hawaiian Islands.



1 Despite our ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate
2 invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly at
3 risk from insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other
4 invasive pests. The coqui frog, *Salvinia molesta*, *Miconia*
5 *calvescens*, ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little fire ant
6 are all present in Hawaii, disrupting the delicate balance of our
7 ecosystems, crowding out native species, and reducing the
8 biodiversity of our islands.

9 The department of agriculture has created a biosecurity
10 program to fight invasive species on several fronts by:

- 11 (1) Administering pre-entry measures to minimize the risk
12 of invasive pests entering the State;
- 13 (2) Conducting port-of-entry inspections to detect and
14 quarantine or destroy pests upon arrival; and
- 15 (3) Administering post-entry measures to mitigate the
16 establishment of pests in the State.

17 The department has also supported the growth of Hawaii's
18 agriculture by attempting to reduce the State's dependency on
19 imported agricultural products that may contain pests. The
20 legislature finds that sufficient support for a biosecurity
21 program is vital to the public's health and welfare.



1 The purpose of this Act is to reaffirm the legislature's
2 finding that the implementation of the department of
3 agriculture's biosecurity program is vital to the State and
4 requires the department to complete the implementation of the
5 program.

6 SECTION 2. Section 150A-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "~~§~~**150A-53**~~§~~ **General actions to achieve objectives.** To
9 achieve the objectives of the biosecurity program, the
10 department shall plan for and, within available legislative
11 appropriations, implement the following:

- 12 (1) Work with government agencies and agricultural
13 commodity exporters of other states and countries to
14 establish pre-entry inspection programs under which
15 inbound cargo into the State is inspected at the ports
16 of departure or other points outside the State;
- 17 (2) Establish, operate, or participate in operating port-
18 of-entry facilities where multiple government agencies
19 may inspect, quarantine, fumigate, disinfect, destroy,
20 or exclude as appropriate, articles that may harbor
21 pests or exclude articles that are prohibited or
22 restricted without a permit, with the goals of:



- 1 (A) Performing inspections in an efficient,
2 effective, and expeditious manner for the
3 government agencies involved and for cargo
4 owners, carriers, and importers; [~~and~~]
- 5 (B) Providing for the proper and safe storage and
6 handling of cargo, especially agricultural and
7 food commodities, awaiting inspection; and
- 8 (C) Establishing or participating in private-public
9 partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program
10 and quarantine inspection process with on-port
11 and off-port facilities, including inspection and
12 treatment facilities, transitional facilities,
13 and consolidation and deconsolidation facilities;
- 14 (3) Develop, implement, and coordinate post-entry measures
15 to eradicate, control, reduce, and suppress pests and,
16 as appropriate, eradicate or seize and dispose of
17 prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit
18 that have entered the State;
- 19 (4) Collaborate with relevant government agencies,
20 agricultural commodity importers, and other persons to
21 examine and develop joint integrated systems to better
22 implement the biosecurity program;



- 1 (5) Improve cargo inspection capabilities and methods,
2 including enhancement of the content and submission
3 requirements for cargo manifests and agricultural
4 commodity ownership and movement certificates;
- 5 (6) Promote the production of agricultural commodities in
6 the State to reduce cargo shipments of imported
7 commodities into the State; and
- 8 (7) Provide public education on the negative effects of
9 pests and prohibited or restricted organisms without a
10 permit, to the environment and economy of the State."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
14 the biosecurity program of the department of agriculture.

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

17 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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Report Title:

Biosecurity Program; Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process. Appropriates funds for FY 2014-2015 for the department of agriculture's biosecurity program. Effective July 1, 2050.
(SD1)

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