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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 immediate action is  
2 needed to stop the spread and establishment of the little fire  
3 ant. Under Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, the legislature  
4 recognized the silent invasion of alien invasive species as the  
5 single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment,  
6 and health and lifestyle of Hawaii residents and visitors.

7           The little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) threatens  
8 ground-nesting wildlife, agricultural production, and human  
9 health and is linked to blindness in pets and livestock.  
10 Economists at the University of Hawaii have estimated the annual  
11 costs of unmanaged infestations to exceed \$150,000,000 for the  
12 island of Hawaii.

13           The little fire ant has been successfully contained in one  
14 location on the island of Kauai and is almost eradicated from  
15 the island of Maui. However, the little fire ant appears to be  
16 moving through interisland commerce because it can easily be  
17 transported via plants, cut flowers, fruit, soil, sand,  
18 equipment, and vehicles. In December 2013, the little fire ant



1 was detected at several nurseries on Oahu and Maui on hapu'u tree  
2 ferns. The ant now appears to be established at several  
3 locations on Oahu.

4 The legislature further finds that the department of  
5 agriculture lacks adequate inspection and response capacity to  
6 address the little fire ant infestation situation. Without  
7 immediate additional funds, populations of the little fire ant  
8 may be established on each of the main islands. Those residents  
9 and businesses on islands where little fire ants have become  
10 widespread are suffering financial losses and a decrease in  
11 their overall quality of life.

12 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
13 the development and implementation of additional tools to stop  
14 the spread and establishment of little fire ants.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the  
18 department of agriculture to establish and implement tools to  
19 control and eradicate little fire ants in Hawaii.

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



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to  
4 establish an island-based canine detection team on each county  
5 to assist in the detection of little fire ants and other high  
6 priority invasive species as determined by each county; provided  
7 that with the approval of the department of agriculture and  
8 appropriate security clearances, a county may provide its  
9 island-based canine detection team for use at state ports and  
10 harbors to assist in the detection of invasive species.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Pacific  
12 cooperative studies unit of the University of Hawaii for the  
13 purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for public  
17 outreach and education efforts related to the control and  
18 eradication of the little fire ants in Hawaii.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Pacific  
20 cooperative studies unit of the University of Hawaii for the  
21 purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

Invasive Species; Little Fire Ant; Department of Agriculture;  
University of Hawaii; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to support the development and implementation of additional tools and education and outreach, to stop the spread and establishment of little fire ants. (SD1)

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