

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION,
CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the invasion of
2 Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
3 other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy
4 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of
5 Hawaii's people. The legislature further finds that immediate
6 action is needed to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive
7 species.

8 Pests already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the
9 extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests,
10 and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests now
11 threaten to invade Hawaii and wreak further damage. Even one
12 new pest, like the brown tree snake or the red imported fire
13 ant, could forever change the character of our islands. For
14 example, a 2010 study by Shwiff, et al., found that if brown
15 tree snakes were introduced to Hawaii, the cost to the State in
16 lost tourism, health costs, and damage to power infrastructure
17 could total \$2,140,000,000 per year. Stopping the influx of new



1 pests and containing their spread is essential to Hawaii's
2 current and future well-being.

3 The legislature previously recognized the importance of
4 invasive species as an issue in Hawaii through Act 85, Session
5 Laws of Hawaii 2003, which resulted in the creation of the
6 interagency Hawaii invasive species council. The Hawaii
7 invasive species council, mandated by chapter 194, Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes, is created for the special purpose of
9 providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning
10 among agencies in Hawaii. The Hawaii invasive species council
11 has met this mandate, in part, by disbursing funds on an annual
12 basis to support critical invasive species prevention, control,
13 outreach, research, and planning projects that enhance or
14 supplement existing departmental projects.

15 A 2002 study by the legislative reference bureau titled
16 "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species"
17 estimated the annual cost to address invasive species issues in
18 Hawaii at \$50,000,000. The original goal for an annual Hawaii
19 invasive species council budget was \$5,000,000 from the general
20 fund, though the initial approved appropriation in fiscal year
21 2005 was \$2,000,000. From fiscal years 2010-2013, no general
22 funds were provided. In fiscal year 2014, \$750,000 was provided



1 from the general fund. A large increase in appropriated funds
2 is necessary to maintain what capacity has been built over the
3 years for invasive species mitigation in Hawaii and to
4 effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources.

5 Governor Neil Abercrombie's "A New Day in Hawaii" plan
6 calls for the stewardship of the natural resources upon which
7 our survival, economy, and quality of life depend. Priority
8 actions of the plan include managing invasive species and
9 increasing Hawaii's ability to withstand impacts from climate
10 change.

11 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to the
12 department of land and natural resources, as administrative host
13 of the Hawaii invasive species council, for the immediate
14 protection of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health
15 and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive
16 species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be
20 expended on projects undertaken in accordance with the Hawaii
21 invasive species council, including but not limited to invasive
22 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2343

Report Title:

Invasive Species Council; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

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