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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the *Wasmannia*  
2   *auropunctata*, commonly known as the little fire ant, threatens  
3   native biodiversity, alters tropical ecosystems, impairs human  
4   health, impedes tourism, diminishes agricultural productivity,  
5   mars horticulture sales, and accordingly ranks among the world's  
6   worst invasive species. Human behaviors and habitats allow the  
7   little fire ant to move quickly, disperse widely, grow to high  
8   densities, and inhabit locations not otherwise possible.

9           Hawaii's tropical climate is ideally suited for little fire  
10   ant establishment and growth. As of 2013, the little fire ant  
11   has been recorded on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Oahu, Lanai,  
12   and Hawaii. The little fire ant has been successfully contained  
13   on the island of Kauai and almost eradicated on the islands of  
14   Maui and Lanai, but continues to move between islands on plants,  
15   cut flowers, fruits, and other media. The ant now appears to be  
16   established at several locations on the island of Oahu.  
17   Additional research, new tools, and increased public awareness



1 are needed to stop the further spread and establishment of the  
2 little fire ant.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
4 development and implementation of additional tools to detect and  
5 control the little fire ant and to create a statewide public  
6 awareness and education campaign about the little fire ant.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The county of Hawaii's department of parks  
8 and recreation shall implement a little fire ant pilot project.

9 The pilot project shall:

- 10 (1) Address the spread of the little fire ant within  
11 infested county parks;
- 12 (2) Test different types of pesticides for controlling and  
13 eradicating the little fire ant;
- 14 (3) Develop model strategies to eradicate the threat of  
15 little fire ants that other counties can implement;  
16 and
- 17 (4) Work in close collaboration with the Hawaii ant lab of  
18 the Pacific cooperative studies unit of the University  
19 of Hawaii.

20 (b) The county of Hawaii may hire personnel necessary for  
21 the little fire ant pilot project. The staff, at a minimum,



1 shall consist of one part-time caretaker II position and two  
2 part-time caretaker I positions.

3 (c) The little fire ant pilot project shall end on  
4 June 30, 2015. The department shall submit a report to the  
5 legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
6 the regular session of 2016, detailing findings and  
7 recommendations, including proposed legislation, regarding the  
8 pilot project.

9 SECTION 3. (a) The Hawaii ant lab of the Pacific  
10 cooperative studies unit of the University of Hawaii shall  
11 implement a canine detection team pilot project to assist in the  
12 detection of new little fire ant populations and the eradication  
13 of ant sites.

14 (b) The canine detection team pilot project shall end on  
15 June 30, 2015. The Hawaii ant lab of the Pacific cooperative  
16 studies unit of the University of Hawaii shall submit a report  
17 to the legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the  
18 convening of the regular session of 2016, detailing findings and  
19 recommendations, including proposed legislation, regarding the  
20 pilot project.

21 SECTION 4. The Hawaii invasive species council shall  
22 implement a statewide public awareness and education campaign to



1 assist in the prevention and eradication of little fire ants,  
2 with an emphasis on testing and detecting the presence of the  
3 invasive species in the media and materials moved by human  
4 commerce and travel, including plants, soil, mulch, cinder,  
5 vehicles, and equipment.

6 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to  
9 establish the little fire ant pilot project, including hiring  
10 the necessary personnel, pesticides, and equipment, to address  
11 the little fire ant threat to Hawaii and develop strategies to  
12 eradicate the little fire ant that can be implemented statewide.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
14 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to  
18 establish a canine detection team for statewide use to assist in  
19 the detection of little fire ants.

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



1 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for a  
4 statewide public awareness and education campaign on little fire  
5 ants.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
7 invasive species council for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.



**Report Title:**

Little Fire Ants; Pilot Project; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds for a little fire ant pilot project, canine detection team pilot project, and public awareness and education campaign to address the little fire ant threat in Hawaii. Effective 7/1/2014. (HD1)

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

