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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL,  
OUTREACH, RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT, 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           Invasive pests already cause millions of dollars in crop  
9 losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of  
10 native forests, and the spread of disease in the State. Many  
11 more harmful pests now threaten to invade Hawaii and wreak  
12 further damage. Even one new pest, like the brown tree snake or  
13 the red imported fire ant, could forever change the character of  
14 our islands. For example, a 2010 study by Shwiff, et al.,  
15 estimated that if brown tree snakes became established in  
16 Hawaii, the cost to the State in lost tourism, health costs, and



1 damage to power infrastructure could range from \$593,000,000 to  
2 \$2,140,000,000 per year. A 2007 study by Gutrich, et al.,  
3 estimated that establishment of red imported fire ants in Hawaii  
4 would cost \$211,000,000 annually, including \$77,000,000 in  
5 control expenses and damage to utility, business, and household  
6 infrastructure and \$134,000,000 in lost outdoor opportunities  
7 for visitors and residents.

8 Studies and experience show that preventing introduction  
9 and spread of pests is more cost effective than reactive  
10 responses or simply absorbing the economic, social, cultural,  
11 and ecological losses caused by established pests that are  
12 allowed to spread unchecked. Stopping the influx of new pests  
13 and containing their spread is essential to Hawaii's current and  
14 future well-being.

15 The legislature previously recognized the critical  
16 importance of invasive species as an issue in Hawaii beginning  
17 with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45, H.D. 1 (2001),  
18 followed by the 2002 legislative reference bureau study,  
19 "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species," and  
20 then Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, which resulted in the  
21 creation of the interagency Hawaii invasive species council.



1 The Hawaii invasive species council, codified in chapter 194,  
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, was created for the special purpose of  
3 providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning  
4 among agencies in Hawaii. The Hawaii invasive species council  
5 has achieved its purpose, in part, by disbursing funds on an  
6 annual basis to support critical invasive species prevention,  
7 control, outreach, research, and planning projects that enhance  
8 or supplement existing departmental projects.

9 A 2002 legislative reference bureau study estimated the  
10 annual cost to address invasive species issues in Hawaii at  
11 \$50,000,000. The original goal for an annual Hawaii invasive  
12 species council budget was \$5,000,000 from the general fund,  
13 though its initial approved appropriation in fiscal year 2005  
14 was \$2,000,000. From fiscal years 2010-2013, no general funds  
15 were appropriated to the council and in fiscal year 2014, only  
16 \$750,000 was appropriated. In fiscal year 2015, the originally-  
17 intended \$5,750,000 funding was appropriated for the council  
18 from the general fund. A continued commitment to the best  
19 possible understanding, science, plans, and capacity, and  
20 adequate funds are necessary to maintain and enhance invasive  
21 species prevention and mitigation in Hawaii to effectively



1 protect Hawaii's natural resources and economy and the health  
2 and lifestyle of its people.

3 The purpose of this Act is to maintain and enhance Hawaii's  
4 commitment to invasive species prevention and mitigation by:

5 (1) Providing funds to the department of land and natural  
6 resources, as administrative host of the Hawaii  
7 invasive species council, for the immediate protection  
8 of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health and  
9 lifestyle of its people through the support of  
10 invasive species prevention, control, research,  
11 outreach, and planning; and

12 (2) Providing funds and a directive to the legislative  
13 reference bureau to update its 2002 study titled  
14 "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive  
15 Species," to provide a current assessment and  
16 recommendations related to the invasive species threat  
17 to Hawaii.

18 SECTION 2. The legislative reference bureau shall update  
19 its 2002 study titled "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against  
20 Invasive Species." In updating the study, the legislative  
21 reference bureau shall consult with relevant government and non-



1 government organizations, experts, and individuals in its  
2 analysis. The scope of the updated study shall include:

- 3 (1) The scope of the invasive species problem on global  
4 and local levels;
- 5 (2) Economic and other costs to Hawaii;
- 6 (3) Health and safety issues;
- 7 (4) State, federal, county, and non-government roles and  
8 responsibilities;
- 9 (5) Gaps and leaks in prevention and response systems; and
- 10 (6) Recommendations for policy, programs, and funding to  
11 address invasive species.

12 The legislative reference bureau shall submit its updated  
13 study to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
14 convening of the regular session of 2017.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
19 2016-2017 to be expended on projects undertaken in accordance  
20 with the Hawaii invasive species council, including invasive  
21 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.



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

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2016-2017 to update the 2002 study titled "Filling the Gaps in  
8 the Fight Against Invasive Species" as provided in this Act.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the legislative  
10 reference bureau for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Jakobson</u>    | <u>[Signature]</u> |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | <u>[Signature]</u> |
| <u>Tom Brown</u>   | <u>[Signature]</u> |

JAN 29 2015



# H.B. NO. 1456

**Report Title:**

Invasive Species; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the departments of land and natural resources, the department of agriculture, the Hawaii invasive species council, and the legislative reference bureau for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, assessment, and planning.

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

