
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that rapid ohia death
2 disease is devastating thousands of acres of native forest on
3 the island of Hawaii. The ohia makes up about fifty per cent of
4 the State's native forest and is a keystone species in native
5 watershed areas. In an attempt to stop the spread of the rapid
6 ohia death disease to other islands, the board of agriculture
7 has recently put Hawaii island ohia trees under a quarantine
8 that limits transport and shipping of the trees.

9 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for
10 research and mitigation efforts to address rapid ohia death
11 disease in the State.

12 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall submit a
13 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
14 convening of the regular session of 2017, that shall include:

15 (1) The nature of the rapid ohia death disease, including
16 its cause, vectors, transmission, and the prospects
17 for preventing the disease;



1 (2) Status of developing and implementing plans and
2 strategies to eliminate, control, or prevent rapid
3 ohia death disease in the State; and

4 (3) Necessary funds and appropriate legislation to
5 eliminate, control, or prevent rapid ohia death
6 disease in the State.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
10 department of agriculture to:

11 (1) Research methods to prevent and treat rapid ohia death
12 disease in the State, with a focus on the island of
13 Hawaii; and

14 (2) Control and contain damage caused by the rapid ohia
15 death disease in the State.

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

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY: Niola E. Lowen

Cynthia Thielen
[Signature]

[Signature]
Felici Parker
Audrey Brown

Quinn

Reed
Richard

Richard
Calvin

Richard
Ryan

John

Richard

John
John

John

John

Richard

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H.B. NO. 1597

Report Title:

Rapid Ohia Death Disease; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State. Requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature. Makes appropriation.

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