
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 moneys 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 department of parks
8 and recreation shall implement a little fire ant pilot project.
9 The pilot project shall:

- 10 (1) Mitigate 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 little fire ant pilot project shall end on
21 June 30, 2016. The department shall submit a report detailing



1 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation,
2 regarding the pilot project to the legislature no later than
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
4 2017.

5 (c) The county of Hawaii shall have the authority to hire
6 personnel necessary for the little fire ant pilot project. The
7 staff, at a minimum, shall consist of one part-time caretaker II
8 position and two part-time caretaker I positions.

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

14 (b) The canine detection team pilot project shall end on
15 June 30, 2016. The Hawaii ant lab of the Pacific cooperative
16 studies unit of the University of Hawaii shall submit a report
17 detailing findings and recommendations, including proposed
18 legislation, regarding the pilot project to the legislature no
19 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
20 session of 2017.



1 SECTION 4. The Hawaii invasive species council shall
2 create a statewide public awareness and education campaign to
3 assist in the prevention and eradication of little fire ants,
4 with an emphasis on testing and detecting the presence of the
5 invasive species in media and materials transported through
6 commerce and travel, including plants, soil, mulch, cinder,
7 vehicles, and equipment.

8 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2016-2017 for a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii
13 department of parks and recreation to establish the little fire
14 ant pilot project, including hiring the necessary personnel,
15 pesticides, and equipment, to address the little fire ant threat
16 to Hawaii and develop strategies that can be implemented
17 statewide to eradicate the little fire ant.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the county of
19 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



H.B. NO. 250

1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
 2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 3 year 2016-2017 to establish a canine detection team based on the
 4 island of Maui, but for statewide use to assist in the detection
 5 of little fire ants.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 7 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
 9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
 11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
 12 year 2016-2017 for a statewide public awareness and education
 13 campaign on little fire ants.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
 15 invasive species council for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

17

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

 JAN 22 2015 **BR**



H.B. NO. 250

Report Title:

Little Fire Ants Pilot Project; Canine Detection Team Pilot Project; Public Awareness and Education Campaign; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates moneys for a little fire ant pilot project, canine detection team pilot project, and a public awareness and education campaign to address the little fire ant threat in Hawaii.

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

