
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MACADAMIA FELTED COCCID.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that macadamia nuts are
2 among the five top-grossing agricultural commodities grown in
3 Hawaii. According to the United States Department of
4 Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Hawaii
5 harvested an estimated forty-four million pounds in macadamia
6 nut crop during the 2012-2013 crop year. The estimated farm
7 value of macadamia nuts for that same year was \$35,200,000.

8 In March 2005, the macadamia felted coccid, *Eriococcus*
9 *ironsidei*, was discovered on macadamia nut trees in South Kona.
10 Originally from Australia, this insect can cause severe damage
11 to macadamia nut trees when uncontrolled. Initially,
12 insecticidal oils researched and recommended by the University
13 of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human resources
14 were effective at controlling the spread of these insects.
15 After successful suppression of the original infestation in
16 2005, however, infestations of macadamia felted coccid have
17 recently been found in the Pahala area. Although insecticidal



1 oil treatment has been effective in eradicating the insect from
2 young sapling trees in the Pahala area, this treatment has
3 proven ineffective on older macadamia nut trees because the
4 trees are too large to apply adequate coverage of the
5 insecticidal oil. Because insecticidal oil is proving to be
6 ineffective, farmers must develop new methods to control the
7 infestation of macadamia felted coccid, which could devastate
8 the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii.

9 According to the department of agriculture, to develop new
10 methods to control the macadamia felted coccid, researchers
11 must:

- 12 (1) Investigate the role of tree canopy modification and
13 understory plants to encourage the presence of natural
14 enemies of the macadamia felted coccid;
- 15 (2) Analyze the potential of alternative pesticides;
- 16 (3) Determine the impact of macadamia felted coccid on
17 plant health;
- 18 (4) Determine action thresholds for macadamia felted
19 coccid management;
- 20 (5) Determine the phenology of macadamia felted coccid in
21 the field; and



1 (6) Identify and test biological control agents in
2 Australia that could be introduced in Hawaii to
3 control the macadamia felted coccid.

4 The research provided by the department of agriculture may
5 lead to better prevention of contamination of macadamia nuts by
6 macadamia felted coccids. Similarly, the federal Food Safety
7 Modernization Act aims to ensure the safety of United States
8 food supply by focusing on prevention of contamination instead
9 of response to contamination. The legislature supports the
10 federal Food Safety Modernization Act's intent to assist farmers
11 and processors with compliance and further supports possible
12 exemptions, especially to prevent contamination of macadamia
13 nuts by macadamia felted coccids.

14 The legislature anticipates that the macadamia felted
15 coccid will spread to other regions and counties of Hawaii if
16 uncontrolled and could devastate the macadamia nut industry.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
18 moneys for research to develop new methods of preventing and
19 treating macadamia felted coccid infestations.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
2 department of agriculture, in cooperation with the college of
3 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of
4 Hawaii at Manoa, to research and develop methods for the
5 prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

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

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
11 following:

12 (1) The University of Hawaii college of tropical
13 agriculture and human resources to research and
14 develop methods for the prevention and treatment of
15 macadamia felted coccid, including new chemical
16 research on cultivating macadamia nuts, in cooperation
17 with the department of agriculture; and

18 (2) Hiring one University of Hawaii college of tropical
19 agriculture and human resources extension agent (1.0
20 FTE) at the college of tropical agriculture and human
21 resources to work on macadamia nut cultivation, post-



1 harvest handling, and processing concerns, consistent
 2 with the Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association research
 3 priority goals.

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

6 SECTION 4. The appropriations made pursuant to sections 2
 7 and 3 of this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal
 8 biennium for which the appropriations are made; provided that
 9 all moneys from the appropriations unencumbered as of June 30,
 10 2021, shall lapse as of that date.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Handwritten signatures of legislators introducing the bill, including names like 'Tommy Ima', 'Hakushima', 'Lyn De Corte', 'Tom Burr', 'K. L.', and 'Randy M. Nishida'.



H.B. NO. 2596

Report Title:

Macadamia Nut Trees; Macadamia Felted Coccid; Agriculture;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to DOA to research and develop methods for
the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

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