

JAN 28 2015

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 or LFA,
3 *Oryctes rhinoceros* (L.), commonly known as the coconut
4 rhinoceros beetle, larvae, pupae, eggs, or CRB, and
5 *Eleutherodactylus Coqui*, commonly known as the coqui frog, coqui
6 frog eggs, or CF, threatens native biodiversity, alters tropical
7 ecosystems, impairs human health, impedes tourism, diminishes
8 agricultural productivity, and mars horticulture sales. The
9 little fire ant ranks among the world's worst invasive species.
10 Human behaviors and habitats allow these invasive species pests
11 to move quickly, disperse widely, grow to high densities, and
12 inhabit locations not otherwise possible.

13 Hawaii's tropical climate is ideally suited for these
14 invasive species pests to become well established and grow. As
15 of 2013, the little fire ant has been established on the islands
16 of Kauai, Maui, Oahu, Lanai, and Hawaii. The little fire ant
17 has been successfully contained on the island of Kauai and



1 almost eradicated on the islands of Maui and Lanai, but
2 continues to move between islands on plants, cut flowers,
3 fruits, and other media. Additional investigation and
4 eradication tools, and increased public awareness are needed to
5 stop the further spread and establishment of the little fire
6 ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog.

7 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys for the
8 development and implementation of additional tools to detect and
9 control the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and
10 coqui frog and to create a statewide public awareness and
11 education campaign about these invasive species pests.

12 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall
13 implement a little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and
14 coqui frog pilot project. The pilot project shall:

- 15 (1) Mitigate the spread of the little fire ant, coconut
16 rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog infested areas;
- 17 (2) Test different types of pesticides and methods for
18 controlling and eradicating the little fire ant,
19 coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog;
- 20 (3) Develop model strategies to detect and eradicate the
21 threat of these invasive species pests that can be



1 implemented under various natural environmental
2 conditions; and

3 (4) Work in consultation with the Hawaii ant lab of the
4 Pacific cooperative studies unit of the University of
5 Hawaii, Hilo and Manoa campuses, Hawaii invasive
6 species council, department of agriculture, and the
7 city and county of Honolulu.

8 (b) This invasive species pest pilot project shall end on
9 June 30, 2016. The department of agriculture shall submit a
10 report detailing findings and recommendations, including
11 proposed legislation, regarding the pilot project to the
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the regular session of 2017.

14 SECTION 3. (a) The department of agriculture in
15 conjunction with the city and county of Honolulu shall establish
16 and implement a canine scent detection teams pilot project to
17 assist in the detection of new little fire ant populations and
18 the eradication of ant sites.

19 (b) The canine scent detection teams pilot project shall
20 end on June 30, 2016. The department of agriculture in
21 conjunction with the city and county of Honolulu shall submit a



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

5 SECTION 4. The Hawaii invasive species council shall
6 create a statewide public awareness and education campaign to
7 assist in the prevention and eradication of the little fire ant,
8 coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog with an emphasis on
9 testing and detecting the presence of these invasive species in
10 media and materials transported through commerce and travel,
11 including plants, soil, mulch, cinder, vehicles, and equipment.

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2016-2017 to provide funding to the department of
17 agriculture and a grant-in-aid to the city and county of
18 Honolulu to establish the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros
19 beetle, and coqui frog pilot project, including hiring the
20 necessary personnel, pesticides, and equipment, to address the
21 little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog



1 threat to Hawaii and develop strategies that can be implemented
2 statewide to eradicate the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros
3 beetle, and coqui frog.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
5 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 6. 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 2015-2016 and
9 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2016-2017 to establish canine scent detection teams for
11 statewide use to assist in the detection of the little fire ant,
12 coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog.

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

15 SECTION 7. 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 2015-2016 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2016-2017 for a statewide public awareness and education
20 campaign on the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and
21 coqui frog.



S.B. NO. 1043

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

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

4

INTRODUCED BY: *R. D. J. J.*
by request

S.B. NO. 1043

Report Title:

Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Coqui Frog Pilot Project; Canine Scent Detection Teams Pilot Project; Public Awareness and Education Campaign; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes and appropriates moneys for a little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog pilot project, canine scent detection teams pilot project, and a public awareness and education campaign to address the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frog threat in Hawaii.

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