
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 invasion of
2 Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
3 other pests is a major threat to the State's economy, natural
4 environment, and health. The legislature further finds that
5 immediate action is needed to mitigate the threats and impacts
6 of invasive species.

7 Pests have caused millions of dollars in crop losses, the
8 extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests,
9 and the spread of disease, and many more harmful pests now
10 threaten to invade Hawaii and wreak further damage. Even one
11 new pest, like the brown tree snake or the red imported fire
12 ant, could forever change the character of our islands. For
13 example, a 2010 study by Shwiff, et al., estimated that if brown
14 tree snakes became established in Hawaii, the cost to the State
15 in lost tourism, health costs, and damage to power
16 infrastructure could range from \$593,000,000 to \$2,140,000,000
17 per year. A 2007 study by Gutrich, et al., estimated that the
18 establishment of red imported fire ants in Hawaii would cost



1 \$211,000,000 annually, including \$77,000,000 in control expenses
2 and damage to utility, business, and household infrastructure
3 and \$134,000,000 in lost outdoor opportunities for visitors and
4 residents. Studies and experience show that preventing the
5 introduction and spread of pests is more cost effective than
6 reactive responses or simply absorbing the economic, social,
7 cultural, and ecological losses caused by established pests that
8 are allowed to spread unchecked. Stopping the influx of new
9 pests and containing their spread is essential to Hawaii's
10 current and future well-being.

11 The legislature previously recognized the critical
12 importance of eliminating invasive species in Hawaii by adopting
13 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45, H.D. 1 (2001), and by
14 passing Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003. Senate Concurrent
15 Resolution No. 45 resulted in the 2002 legislative reference
16 bureau study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive
17 Species", and Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, resulted in
18 the creation of the interagency Hawaii invasive species council
19 to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning
20 among agencies. The Hawaii invasive species council has
21 disbursed funds on an annual basis to support critical invasive



1 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning
2 projects that enhance or supplement existing departmental
3 projects.

4 The legislative reference bureau study "Filling the Gaps in
5 the Fight Against Invasive Species", estimated the annual cost
6 to address invasive species issues in Hawaii at \$50,000,000.
7 The original goal for an annual Hawaii invasive species council
8 budget was \$5,000,000 from the general fund, though the initial
9 approved appropriation in fiscal year 2005 was \$2,000,000. From
10 fiscal years 2010-2013, no general funds were provided. In
11 fiscal year 2014, \$750,000 was provided from the general fund.
12 In fiscal year 2015, \$5,750,000 was provided from the general
13 fund. The legislature finds that a continued commitment to
14 having the best possible understanding, science, plans, and
15 capacity is necessary to maintain and enhance invasive species
16 prevention and mitigation in Hawaii to effectively protect the
17 State's natural resources and economy and the health and
18 lifestyle of its people.

19 The purpose of this Act is to:

20 (1) Provide funds to the department of land and natural
21 resources, as administrative host of the Hawaii



1 invasive species council, for the immediate protection
2 of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health and
3 lifestyle of its people through the support of
4 invasive species prevention, control, research,
5 outreach, and planning;

6 (2) Provide moneys and staffing capacity to the department
7 of agriculture, with assistance and advice from the
8 other member departments of the Hawaii invasive
9 species council, to prevent the introduction of new
10 pests to Hawaii and to prevent the spread of pests
11 between islands; and

12 (3) Provide moneys and direct the legislative reference
13 bureau to update its 2002 study titled "Filling the
14 Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species".

15 SECTION 2. 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 but not



1 limited to invasive species prevention, control, outreach,
2 research, and planning.

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

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2016-2017 for projects to rapidly respond to, control, and
10 eradicate incipient infestations, and prevent the movement of
11 invasive species between the islands of Hawaii.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of agriculture, with appropriate assistance and advice from the
14 other departments that are represented on the Hawaii invasive
15 species council, for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall
17 update the economic and other costs to Hawaii and health and
18 safety components of its 2002 study "Filling the Gaps in the
19 Fight Against Invasive Species".

20 (b) The legislative reference bureau may contract the
21 services of another entity to perform any economic modeling or



1 any related services that may be required pursuant to this
2 section. Any contract for services executed pursuant to this
3 section shall be exempt from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised
4 Statutes.

5 (c) The legislative reference bureau shall submit the
6 updated study to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
7 to the convening of the regular session of 2017.

8 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$100,000 or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
12 2016-2017 for the contracting of services to update the economic
13 and other costs to Hawaii and health and safety components of
14 the 2002 study "Filling in the Gaps in the Fight Against
15 Invasive Species".

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

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

19



Report Title:

Invasive Species; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to DLNR and DOA for addressing issues relating to invasive species. Requires and appropriates funds to LRB to update the economic and other costs and health and safety components of its 2002 study on invasive species. (SD1)

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