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# 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 and require the department of land and  
12 natural resources to report on the nature of the disease and  
13 actions taken and resources needed to mitigate the disease.

14           SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources  
15 shall submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty  
16 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017, that  
17 shall include:



- 1           (1) The nature of the rapid ohia death disease, including
- 2           its cause, vectors, transmission, and the prospects
- 3           for preventing the disease;
- 4           (2) Status of developing and implementing plans and
- 5           strategies to eliminate, control, or prevent rapid
- 6           ohia death disease in the State; and
- 7           (3) Necessary funds and appropriate legislation to
- 8           eliminate, control, or prevent rapid ohia death
- 9           disease in the State.

10           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
13 department of land and natural resources to:

- 14           (1) Research methods to prevent and treat rapid ohia death
- 15           disease in the State, with a focus on the island of
- 16           Hawaii; and
- 17           (2) Control and contain damage caused by the rapid ohia
- 18           death disease in the State.

19           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
20 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

Rapid Ohia Death Disease; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources 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 an appropriation. (SD1)

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

