

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the unchecked spread
2 of invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's
3 economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of
4 Hawaii's people. Invasive pests can cause millions of dollars
5 in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the
6 destruction of native forests, the spread of disease, and the
7 quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

8 Island ecosystems are especially vulnerable to the
9 destructive power of invasive pests. In Guam, the accidental
10 introduction of the brown tree snake has resulted in widespread
11 devastation. Without natural predators or competition for food,
12 the brown tree snake population in Guam has grown exponentially,
13 causing the mass extinction of endemic birds. Where there once
14 were bird songs, the silent forests of Guam are now home to as
15 many as fifteen thousand snakes per square mile. The
16 introduction of just one new pest like the brown tree snake
17 could forever change the character of the Hawaiian islands.



1 Despite the State's ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate
2 invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly
3 at risk from insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds,
4 and other invasive pests. The coqui frog, salvinia molesta,
5 miconia calvescens, ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little
6 fire ant are all currently present in Hawaii, disrupting the
7 delicate balance of the State's ecosystems, crowding out native
8 species, and reducing the biodiversity of the islands.

9 The department of agriculture has created a biosecurity
10 program to fight invasive species on several fronts by:

- 11 (1) Administering pre-entry measures to minimalize the
12 risk of invasive species entering the State;
- 13 (2) Conducting port-of-entry inspections to detect and
14 quarantine or destroy pests upon arrival; and
- 15 (3) Administering post-entry measures to mitigate the
16 establishment of invasive species within the State.

17 The department of agriculture has also supported the growth
18 of agriculture in the State by attempting to reduce the State's
19 dependency on imported agricultural products that may contain
20 invasive pests. The legislature finds that the public's health



1 and welfare are served by providing funding to support
2 biosecurity programs.

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the
4 department of agriculture to complete the implementation and
5 continue the operation of its biosecurity programs.

6 SECTION 2. 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 for the biosecurity programs of the department of
11 agriculture.

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

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the pest
15 inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund the sum of
16 \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the biosecurity programs
19 of the department of agriculture.

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



S.B. NO. 312

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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S.B. NO. 312

Report Title:

Agriculture; Biosecurity Programs; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates general funds and funds from the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund to the department of agriculture for its biosecurity programs.

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