
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 responding quickly
2 to newly detected invasive species in the State can often "nip
3 the problem in the bud" and prevent it from becoming firmly
4 established, thus saving taxpayers money in the long term.
5 State agencies currently lack resources and a mechanism to
6 quickly respond to new threats and, therefore, may be missing
7 opportunities to eliminate those threats. This may allow new
8 invasive species to become established in the State and make
9 efforts to mitigate or eliminate them more protracted and
10 expensive.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to create a
12 mechanism for the rapid response to invasive species so that
13 newly detected threats may be immediately addressed.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
16 and to read as follows:



1 "§194- Invasive species rapid response special fund.

2 (a) There is established the invasive species rapid response
3 special fund, into which shall be deposited appropriations by
4 the legislature for the purposes of mitigating or eradicating
5 newly detected invasive species threats in the State. All
6 interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited into the fund
7 shall become part of the fund. The council shall administer the
8 special fund and may expend moneys in the special fund in
9 accordance with this section.

10 (b) If the council determines that one or more newly
11 detected invasive species pose a substantial threat to the
12 agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, or public health of
13 the State or otherwise warrant immediate action, the council
14 shall submit a request to the governor to declare that there
15 exists an invasive species emergency.

16 (c) Upon declaration by the governor pursuant to
17 subsection (b) that there exists an invasive species emergency,
18 the council may take action in response to the emergency and
19 make expenditures from the fund without legislative approval and
20 without regard to chapters 36, 37, 89, and 103D.



1 (d) The council shall make an accounting of moneys
 2 expended from the fund and shall include that information in its
 3 annual report to the legislature."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 8 2018-2019 for deposit into the invasive species rapid response
 9 special fund.

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

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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H.B. NO. 904

Report Title:

Invasive Species; Mitigation and Eradication; Special Fund;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the invasive species rapid response special fund within DLNR. Establishes procedures for emergency declarations and expenditures. Appropriates moneys.

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