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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the *Aedes aegypti*  
2 mosquito is the primary mosquito species that is responsible for  
3 transmitting human viruses, including Zika and dengue. The  
4 legislature further finds that research by the World Mosquito  
5 Project indicates that the introduction of *Wolbachia* bacteria  
6 into mosquitoes makes the mosquitoes more resistant to infection  
7 with pathogens that can cause diseases in humans, including Zika  
8 and dengue, and therefore less likely to transmit these diseases  
9 to humans. However, while *Wolbachia* bacteria are natural  
10 bacteria in some mosquitoes, it is not usually found in the  
11 *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. Mosquitoes with naturally-occurring  
12 *Wolbachia* bacteria are not presently known to exist in the  
13 State.

14           The legislature further finds that the release of  
15 *Wolbachia*-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and subsequent  
16 interbreeding with wild mosquitoes reduce the ability of  
17 cumulative mosquito populations to serve as disease vectors.



1 without suppressing mosquito populations and, therefore,  
2 altering ecosystem balance. Research has also shown that  
3 *Wolbachia* is safe for humans, animals, and the environment.

4 The department of agriculture regulates the importation of  
5 animals, including insects, into Hawaii by maintaining lists of  
6 conditionally approved animals that require a permit for import  
7 into the State, restricted animals that require a permit for  
8 both import into the State and possession, and animals that are  
9 prohibited entry into the State.

10 The legislature further finds that protecting the residents  
11 of Hawaii from mosquito-borne illnesses such as Zika and dengue  
12 viruses warrants further inquiry into the feasibility and safety  
13 of importing and releasing mosquitoes with *Wolbachia* bacteria.  
14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to investigate potential  
15 innovative vector control programs by:

- 16 (1) Directing the department of agriculture to review the  
17 *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria and  
18 render a determination for placement of the mosquito  
19 on the appropriate animal import list; and  
20 (2) Directing the departments of agriculture and health to  
21 collaborate on a report to the legislature that



1 includes recommendations regarding the importation of  
2 the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria and  
3 recommendations for appropriate vector control  
4 programs.

5 SECTION 2. The department of health shall review the *Aedes*  
6 *aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria and render a  
7 determination for placement of the mosquito on the appropriate  
8 animal import list, pursuant to section 150A-6.2, Hawaii  
9 Revised Statutes.

10 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture and the  
11 department of health shall collaborate on a report to the  
12 legislature that shall include:

- 13 (1) Findings and recommendations regarding the importation  
14 and release of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with  
15 *Wolbachia* bacteria;
- 16 (2) Determination for the placement of the *Aedes*  
17 *aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria on the  
18 appropriate animal import list pursuant to section  
19 150A-6.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the status of  
20 the import list placement process;



- 1 (3) Recommendations, plans, time-line, and implementation
- 2 costs for a mosquito control program using the *Aedes*
- 3 *aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, if
- 4 permitted, and, if not permitted, recommendations for
- 5 other alternative vector control means; and
- 6 (4) Any other relevant findings, recommendations, and any
- 7 necessary proposed legislation.

8 The report shall be submitted to the legislature no later than  
 9 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
 10 2020.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# H.B. NO. 297

**Report Title:**

Aedes Aegypti Mosquito; Wolbachia Bacteria; Vector Control;  
Report; Animal Importation

**Description:**

Directs the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to review the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria and place it on the appropriate animal import list. Requires DOA and the Department of Health to collaborate on a report to the legislature with recommendations for appropriate vector control programs.

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

