
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 agriculture shall review the
6 *Aedes 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 Revised
9 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, timeline, 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 on July 1, 2050.



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 render a determination to 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. (HB297 HD1)

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