

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIES CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Hawaiian tree snails, Kahuli, are treasured for
2 their importance to native Hawaiian culture, their beauty, and
3 their ecological role in sustaining healthy forest ecosystems.
4 Hawaii's tree snails have been described as the "jewels of the
5 forest", and Hawaiian folklore often depicts the tree snails as
6 being able to sing. Over seven hundred fifty species of
7 terrestrial snails once inhabited the Hawaiian islands,
8 representing one of the most stunning examples of species
9 radiations in the world. Sadly, it is estimated that over half
10 of this diversity has been lost.

11 On January 1, 2019, another irreplaceable native Hawaiian
12 species was lost when the last known *Achatinella apexfulva*,
13 named "Lonesome George", perished. The international news media
14 coverage of this loss is a sober reminder that Hawaii has the
15 unfortunate distinction of being the endangered species capitol
16 of the world. Hawaii's iconic native plants and animals are
17 being threatened by invasive species, fire, and disease.



1 However, there are effective tools to protect these species
2 that are part of Hawaii's natural and cultural legacy. A two-
3 part strategy has proven successful in rebounding snail
4 populations. First, critically rare snail populations must be
5 relocated to facilities where they are captively bred to
6 increase their population numbers. Then, small predator proof
7 fences must be installed in their habitat, so these captive
8 populations have a safe place to flourish again in the wild.
9 Fences in the Koolau mountains of Oahu and in the West Maui
10 mountains are urgently needed because snail populations in those
11 regions are crashing, and most of these species will likely go
12 extinct within five to ten years without intervention.

13 The legislature additionally finds that there is a crucial
14 need to relocate the existing invertebrate captive rearing
15 facilities to the Waimano baseyard in Oahu. The facilities are
16 currently situated in Kawainui, where the facilities are
17 extremely vulnerable to flooding, high wind events, and
18 vandalism. Moving the facilities to an improved department of
19 land and natural resources baseyard with maintained access and
20 security, outside of a flood zone, will help ensure that these
21 ecologically and culturally important species are safe until



1 they can be reintroduced in the wild. Further, the existing
2 facility must be expanded so it can house more populations of
3 snails that are unprotected in the wild.

4 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of
5 general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for the
6 construction of two new fences to protect snails from predators
7 and an invertebrate and plant propagation facility and baseyard
8 improvements for a permanent and secure snail rearing lab that
9 will also service other rare species.

10 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
11 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$200,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
13 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2020-2021
14 for the construction of an invertebrate and plant propagation
15 facility and baseyard improvements on Oahu.

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

18 SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue
19 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$150,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof



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1 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2020-2021
2 for the construction of a predator proof fence on Oahu.

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

5 SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue
6 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$150,000 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
8 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2020-2021
9 for the construction of a predator proof fence on Maui.

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

12 SECTION 5. The appropriation made for the capital
13 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
14 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
15 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
16 unencumbered as of June 30, 2022, shall lapse as of that date.

17 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

18

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signatures: E. J. Amodeo, Mike Labbadia, Steve, Anne Prasad]



S.B. NO. 964

Report Title:

Endangered Hawaiian Snail Conservation; Propagation Facility; Construction; General Obligation Bonds; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for the construction of an invertebrate and plant propagation facility and baseyard improvements on Oahu, a predator proof fence on Oahu, and a predator proof fence on Maui.

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