
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's tropical
2 flower industry forms an important part of both the agricultural
3 sector of the economy and the wider economy as well. Residents
4 and businesses in the State rely on local tropical flowers and
5 foliage grown by local farmers to beautify their homes,
6 businesses, restaurants, and hotels. Local flowers are also
7 often given as gifts to our loved ones.

8 However, the legislature also finds that there is concern
9 within the State's agricultural community that certain diseases
10 that affect tropical flowers and foliage grown in the State have
11 caused a decline in this industry. When the local supply of
12 tropical flowers and foliage cannot meet local needs, tropical
13 flowers and foliage must be imported from foreign countries,
14 which in turn carries an elevated risk of inadvertently
15 introducing other dangerous insects and diseases to the State's
16 farms and plant nurseries. For example, in 2014, a new fungal
17 pathogen known as rapid ohia death was identified on Hawaii



1 Island. This deadly disease has decimated our native forests.
2 The legislature further finds that there are other plant
3 diseases and insects even more lethal and faster spreading than
4 rapid ohia death that could potentially be introduced into the
5 State, such as rust fungal disease. It is critical to prevent
6 the introduction of these insects and diseases into the State to
7 protect our critical agriculture industry.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to minimize of the
9 risk of disease introduction in the State by requiring the
10 department of agriculture to collaborate with agricultural
11 growers and researchers to develop and implement a program to
12 safely distribute disease- and insect-free tropical plant
13 materials to Hawaii farmers.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§141- Tropical flower and foliage; plant material
18 distribution program; established. (a) The department of
19 agriculture shall develop and implement a program that:

20 (1) Obtains tropical plant materials from sources within
21 the State and outside of the State;



- 1 (2) Diagnostically screens the tropical plant materials to
2 ensure the materials are free of harmful insects and
3 diseases;
- 4 (3) Propagates these disease- and insect-free tropical
5 plant materials; and
- 6 (4) Distributes the plant materials to Hawaii farmers.
- 7 (b) In developing the program required by this section,
8 the department of agriculture shall consult with:
- 9 (1) Tropical flower and foliage growers; and
10 (2) Agricultural research entities.
- 11 (c) The department of agriculture may adopt rules pursuant
12 to chapter 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section."

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to develop
16 and implement the tropical flower and foliage plant material
17 distribution program established by section 2 of this Act.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
19 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



H.B. NO. 2723

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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JAN 23 2020



H.B. NO. 2723

Report Title:

HDOA; Tropical Flowers and Foliage; Plant Materials;
Distribution Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with agricultural growers and researchers to develop and implement a program to safely distribute disease- and insect-free tropical plant materials to Hawaii farmers. Appropriates funds.

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