

JAN 17 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CONTROL.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that invasive, alien  
2 plant species have become a serious threat to the unique flora  
3 and fauna of the Hawaiian islands. Invasive species have taken  
4 over the habitats of many native Hawaiian plants and animals,  
5 threatening or even causing their extinction, as well as soil  
6 erosion and numerous other problems.

7           The legislature further finds that most invasive plant  
8 species are introduced nursery or landscape plants. The main  
9 reason they become invasive is because they are prolific seed  
10 producers. Landscapers are reluctant to stop using many  
11 invasive plants due to the importance of beautiful resort  
12 landscapes used for the State's tourism-oriented economy and the  
13 lack of appropriate substitutes for many of the invasive plants.

14           According to the legislative reference bureau in its 2002  
15 report, "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive  
16 Species", the State spent \$8,497,500 in 1999 and another  
17 \$11,087,380 in 2000 to fight invasive species. Miconia is one



1 of the most damaging ornamental species. According to a 2006  
2 report by Brooks A. Kaiser, the present values of damage from  
3 accommodating invasive *Miconia calvescens* in Hawaii, rather than  
4 eradicating or controlling its spread, over the span of fifty,  
5 one hundred, and two hundred-year horizons are estimated at  
6 \$47,000,000, \$1,740,000,000, and \$2,360,000,000 losses in  
7 economic welfare, respectively.

8 Scientists at the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
9 agriculture and human resources have developed techniques to  
10 produce seedless plants, which are vegetatively propagated.  
11 Once sterilized, important nursery plants can be grown and used  
12 for landscaping without any possibility that these plants will  
13 reproduce and become invasive.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
15 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human  
16 resources to develop or identify a substitute for invasive plant  
17 species.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
21 the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and



# S.B. NO. 2082

1 human resources to develop or identify a substitute, which may  
 2 include a sterile, non-seed-producing form, for invasive plant  
 3 species.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
 5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Daniel R. Kono*  
*Orinella R. Kono*

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# S.B. NO. 2082

**Report Title:**

Invasive Plant Species; Substitute; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources to develop or identify a substitute for invasive plant species.

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

