
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 that are vegetatively propagated. Once
 11 sterilized, important nursery plants can be grown and used for
 12 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 \$97,000 or so much
 20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
 21 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human



1 resources to develop or identify a substitute for invasive plant
2 species, to include its current research on sterile, non-seed-
3 producing forms of polyploids and exclude highly invasive plant
4 species that are listed on the department of agriculture's
5 noxious weed list, and plants with a high score on the
6 University of Hawaii's weed risk assessment.

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

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



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. (SD1)

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