
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 plant
2 species have become a serious threat to the unique flora and
3 fauna of the Hawaiian islands. Invasive plant species erode
4 soil and have taken over the ecosystems of many native plants
5 and animals, threatening or even causing their extinction.

6 The legislature further finds that most invasive plant
7 species originate as nursery or landscape plants that become
8 invasive through their prolific production of seeds.

9 Landscapers are often reluctant to stop using many invasive
10 plants due to a lack of appropriate substitutes and given the
11 emphasis placed on maintaining beautiful resort landscapes to
12 support the State's tourism-oriented economy.

13 The legislative reference bureau's 2002 report, "Filling
14 the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species", found that the
15 State spent \$8,497,500 in 1999 and another \$11,087,380 in 2000
16 to fight invasive species, including Miconia, one of the most
17 damaging ornamental species. According to a 2006 report by



1 Brooks A. Kaiser, accommodating the invasive species plant
 2 Miconia calvescens, rather than eradicating or controlling its
 3 spread, will cost the State approximately \$47,000,000,
 4 \$1,740,000,000, and \$2,360,000,000 in losses and damages
 5 over the span of fifty, one hundred, and two hundred years,
 6 respectively.

7 Scientists at the university of Hawaii college of tropical
 8 agriculture and human resources have developed techniques to
 9 produce seedless plants that are vegetatively propagated. Once
 10 sterilized, nursery plants can be grown and used for landscaping
 11 without any possibility of reproducing and becoming invasive.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
 13 funds for the university of Hawaii college of tropical
 14 agriculture and human resources to develop or identify
 15 substitutes for invasive plant species that are routinely used
 16 in landscaping.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
 20 university of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
 21 resources to develop or identify substitutes for invasive plant



1 species that are routinely used in landscaping; provided that
2 the funded research shall include studies of sterile, non-seed-
3 producing forms of polyploids and shall exclude highly invasive
4 plant species that are listed on the department of agriculture's
5 noxious weed list and plants having high scores 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, 2050.



Report Title:

UH; Invasive Plant Species; Substitutes; Appropriation

Description:

Requires and appropriates funds for the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to develop or identify substitutes for invasive plant species that are routinely used in landscaping. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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