

JAN 18 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the invasion of
2 Hawai'i by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
3 other pests is the single greatest threat to the State's economy
4 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of the
5 people of Hawai'i. Pests already cause millions of dollars in
6 crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction
7 of native forests, and the spread of disease, but many more
8 harmful pests now threaten to invade Hawai'i and cause more
9 damage. Stopping the influx of new pests and containing their
10 spread are essential to the State's current and future well-
11 being.

12 The legislature further recognizes the efforts made by the
13 department of land and natural resources' division of forestry
14 and wildlife, Maui branch, and the Maui invasive species
15 committee to control high-threat invasive species throughout
16 Maui county, especially efforts in east Maui to control miconia,
17 a fast-growing weedy tree that can increase erosion and



1 landslides due to its shallow root system. It is estimated that
2 approximately 37,000 acres throughout east Maui could contain
3 miconia, which poses a threat to the local environment, cultural
4 practices, and economy.

5 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to establish
6 invasive species technician positions for the department of land
7 and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife in east
8 Maui to control invasive species, like miconia, from negatively
9 impacting the environment and economy.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2020-2021 to establish five permanent full-time equivalent (5.0
15 FTE) invasive species technician positions at the department of
16 land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife,
17 Maui branch, to address invasive plants and animals in east
18 Maui.

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

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S.B. NO. 685

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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S.B. NO. 685

Report Title:

Invasive Species; East Maui; Division of Forestry and Wildlife;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Maui branch, for invasive species technician positions in east Maui to address invasive plants and animals.

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