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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUGS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the two-lined  
2 spittlebug, *Prosapia bicincta*, is an invasive insect that  
3 attacks key forage grasses used by the livestock ranching  
4 industry. In 2016, the State's first two-lined spittlebug  
5 infestation was discovered in Kailua-Kona, on the island of  
6 Hawaii, where the pest had damaged nearly two thousand acres of  
7 pasture land. Many high-quality pasture grasses, including  
8 *Bracharia*, *Kikuyu*, *Pangola*, *St. Augustine*, and *Bermuda*, are  
9 susceptible to attacks by the two-lined spittlebug. During  
10 heavy infestations, dying plant tissue cascades from the leaves  
11 to the roots, ultimately causing the death of the whole plant.  
12 The resulting damage does not allow for any regrowth, requiring  
13 ranchers to totally replant affected pastures.

14           The legislature further finds that two-lined spittlebug  
15 infestations have reduced the quality of some forage pastures in  
16 Hawaii by decreasing their nutritional value, palatability, and  
17 productivity. Infestations of the pest also promote the



1 establishment of weeds and lower-quality foraging grasses.  
2 Monthly surveys carried out on the island of Hawaii since 2017  
3 show that the pest is rapidly expanding its range and now covers  
4 more than two hundred seventy-five square miles. The loss of  
5 production in affected areas is estimated to be about \$133 per  
6 acre, and it is forecast that severely impacted pasture will  
7 cost \$500 per acre for up to ten years to recover.

8 The legislature recognizes that livestock ranching is a  
9 highly productive and extremely valuable industry on all of  
10 Hawaii's major islands. The State's livestock industry has an  
11 estimated annual value of more than \$68,000,000, with over one  
12 hundred forty-two thousand beef cattle on more than one thousand  
13 three hundred ranches. Collectively, these ranches cover nearly  
14 twenty-five per cent of the State's land area.

15 The legislature additionally finds that the department of  
16 agriculture is beginning efforts to mitigate and control two-  
17 lined spittlebug infestations using funds received by the State  
18 from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.  
19 Currently, the department is working on a direct contract to the  
20 research corporation of the University of Hawaii to support  
21 rancher activities in controlling two-lined spittlebugs in areas



1 devastated by the insect. However, more support and funding are  
2 needed to continue the department's work in mitigating and  
3 controlling the two-lined spittlebug population in Hawaii.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
5 funds to the department of agriculture to continue its efforts  
6 to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug and for  
7 recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
11 mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug, including  
12 reduction of the two-lined spittlebug population through the use  
13 of insecticides, integration of weed management measures in  
14 affected rangelands, and reseedling of pastures damaged by  
15 infestations.

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

18 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a  
19 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
20 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
21 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023



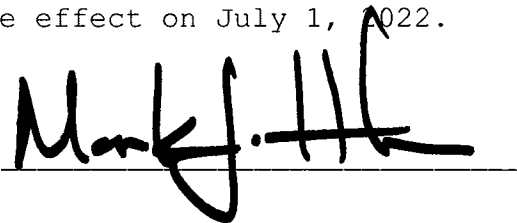
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1 regarding efforts to mitigate and control the two-lined  
2 spittlebug and for the recovery of pasture lands. The report  
3 shall also document the expenditure of funds and the progress of  
4 activities funded by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark J. Hill", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 21 2022



# H.B. NO. 1714

**Report Title:**

Two-lined Spittlebug; Mitigation; Control; Department of  
Agriculture; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to DOA for the mitigation and control of the  
two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by  
the invasive pest.

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

