JAN 2 1 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

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

- 1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's tropical
- 2 flower industry forms an important part of both the agricultural
- 3 sector of the economy and the wider economy as well. Residents
- 4 and businesses in the State rely on local tropical flowers and
- 5 foliage grown by local farmers to beautify their homes,
- 6 businesses, restaurants, and hotels. Local flowers are also
- 7 often given as gifts to loved ones.
- 8 The legislature further finds that there is concern within
- 9 the State's agricultural community that certain diseases that
- 10 affect tropical flowers and foliage grown in the State have
- 11 caused a decline in this industry. When the local supply of
- 12 tropical flowers and foliage cannot meet local needs, tropical
- 13 flowers and foliage must be imported from foreign countries,
- 14 which in turn carries an elevated risk of inadvertently
- 15 introducing dangerous insects and diseases to the State's farms
- 16 and plant nurseries. For example, in 2014, a new fungal
- 17 pathogen known as rapid ohia death was identified on Hawaii



S.B. NO. 2327

- 1 Island. This deadly disease has also decimated the State's
- 2 native forests. The legislature further finds that there are
- 3 other plant diseases and insects even more lethal and faster
- 4 spreading than rapid ohia death that could potentially be
- 5 introduced into the State, such as rust fungal disease. It is
- 6 critical to prevent the introduction of these insects and
- 7 diseases into the State to protect the vital agriculture
- 8 industry.
- 9 The purpose of this Act is to minimize the risk of disease
- 10 and pest introduction in the State by requiring the department
- 11 of agriculture to collaborate with agricultural growers and
- 12 researchers to develop and implement a program to safely
- 13 distribute disease- and insect-free tropical plant materials to
- 14 Hawaii farmers.
- 15 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
- 16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
- 17 and to read as follows:
- 18 "\$141- Tropical flower and foliage; plant material
- 19 distribution program; established. (a) The department of
- 20 agriculture shall develop and implement a program that:

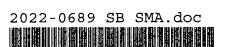
S.B. NO. 2327

1	(1)	Obtains tropical plant materials from sources within
2		the State and outside of the State;
3	(2)	Diagnostically screens the tropical plant materials to
4		ensure the materials are free of harmful insects and
5		diseases;
6	(3)	Propagates these disease- and insect-free tropical
7		plant materials; and
8	(4)	Distributes the plant materials to Hawaii farmers.
9	(b)	In developing the program required by this section,
10	the department of agriculture shall consult with:	
11	(1)	Tropical flower and foliage growers; and
12	(2)	Agricultural research entities.
13	<u>(c)</u>	No later than January 1, 2024, the department of
14	agriculture shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to	
15	effectuate the purposes of this section. The rules shall	
16	specify the plant species and varieties that need additional	
17	regulations and establish quarantine requirements, diagnostic	
18	measures, and import requirements."	
19	SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general	
20	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so	
21	much ther	eof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to

- 1 develop and implement the tropical flower and foliage plant
- 2 material distribution program established by section 2 of this
- 3 Act.
- 4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
- 5 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.
- 6 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.
- 7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

8

INTRODUCED BY: AC Sint-Olg



S.B. NO. 2321

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Tropical Flowers and Foliage; Plant Materials; Distribution Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with agricultural growers and researchers to develop and implement a program to safely distribute disease- and insect-free tropical plant materials to Hawaii farmers. Requires the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules to specify the plant species and varieties that warrant additional regulations. Appropriates funds.

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