

JAN 21 2022

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 Hawai'i's geographic
2 location renders the State susceptible to invasive species that
3 negatively impact the unique, natural biodiversity of the
4 islands. The legislature supports the Hawai'i invasive species
5 council, which was established in 2003 to provide policy-level
6 direction, coordination, and planning among state departments,
7 federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for
8 the control and eradication of harmful invasive species
9 infestations throughout the State. The Hawai'i invasive species
10 council fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing
11 plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive
12 species prevention, control, outreach, and research.

13 The legislature further finds that the Hawai'i invasive
14 species council has effectively mitigated nonindigenous fungal
15 pathogens introduced to Hawai'i--specifically, rapid 'ōhi'a death,
16 which was first identified on Hawai'i island in 2014. In 2015,



1 the Hawai'i invasive species council awarded funds to the
2 University of Hawai'i to support a post-doctoral researcher to
3 assist an interagency team of scientists in the Hilo area to
4 study how the disease is transmitted and to find potential
5 treatment options. Additionally, the legislature finds that the
6 interagency effort spearheaded by the Hawai'i invasive species
7 council provided a comprehensive response to rapid 'ōhi'a death
8 that produced hundreds of educated volunteers statewide on how
9 to collect 'ōhi'a seeds to further conserve the species.

10 Unfortunately, in 2020, the coffee leaf rust pathogen was
11 discovered for the first time in the United States on the
12 islands of Hawai'i and Maui. The legislature finds that coffee
13 leaf rust causes severe defoliation that greatly reduces the
14 photosynthetic capacity of the coffee plants. Long-term effects
15 of coffee leaf rust may include dieback, which has a significant
16 impact on the following year's yield and causes an estimated
17 thirty per cent to eighty per cent loss if not properly treated.
18 The legislature further finds that efforts to control coffee
19 leaf rust are critical to sustaining the coffee industry--which
20 nets over \$54,300,000 in revenue annually--and the State must
21 continue to support these efforts.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
2 Hawai'i invasive species council to classify coffee leaf rust as
3 an invasive species in its administrative rules in order to
4 utilize available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and
5 prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

6 SECTION 2. The Hawai'i invasive species council shall
7 classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its
8 administrative rules. The Hawai'i invasive species council shall
9 further direct available funding for mitigation efforts,
10 research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf
11 rust.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 2907

Report Title:

Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee Leaf Rust

Description:

Requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust.

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