

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that responding quickly
2 to newly detected invasive species can often prevent the species
3 from becoming firmly established, saving taxpayers money in the
4 long term. The United States Department of Agriculture has
5 stated that foreign pests and disease already cost the United
6 States' economy tens of billions of dollars annually in lower
7 crop values, eradication programs, emergency payments to
8 farmers, and increased costs for food and other natural
9 resources.

10 Currently, with the spread of coffee leaf rust fungus,
11 State agencies lack resources, such as quarantine facilities,
12 and response mechanisms to deal with these newly identified
13 threats and may be missing opportunities to eliminate them. The
14 introduction of coffee leaf rust fungus as an alien invasive
15 species poses serious problems to the State's ecosystem. Any
16 introduction of alien invasive species via the airport or other
17 entry points throughout the State may lead to significant



1 cumulative impacts. The lack of resources and facilities can
2 allow invasive species to become established in the State,
3 making mitigation efforts more protracted and expensive.

4 The legislature further finds that the plant quarantine
5 branch of the department of agriculture is tasked with
6 preventing the introduction and spread of harmful pests and
7 diseases into the State by regulating domestic import,
8 performing border inspections, and facilitating post-border
9 detection and control of agricultural pests. The plant
10 quarantine branch is a critical component in meeting the threat
11 of invasive species entering Hawai'i and spreading throughout
12 Hawai'i through the State's ports of entry.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
14 moneys out of the general revenues of the State to expand state-
15 run quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the
16 department of agriculture's plant quarantine branch.

17 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall submit a
18 report of its findings and recommendations relating to the
19 expenditure of funds towards the purpose of this Act, including
20 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than



1 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
2 2023.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
6 expansion of state-run quarantine facilities under the
7 jurisdiction of the department of agriculture's plant quarantine
8 branch.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2908

Report Title:

Invasive Species; Department of Agriculture; Plant Quarantine Branch; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates general revenues to expand state-run quarantine facilities under the jurisdiction of the department of agriculture's plant quarantine branch.

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