

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2022

RE: H.B. No. 1518  
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2022  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 1518 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ANTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the research, extension, and control of the little fire ant and other harmful ant species.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Association of REALTORS; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Hilo Orchid Farm Hawaii, Inc.; Stop LFA Kohala; Hawaii Ant Lab; Mauna Kea Cacao LLC; and eleven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Your Committee finds that the little fire ant, or *Wasmannia auropunctata*, was first discovered on the island of Hawaii in 1999. Since then, the little fire ant has spread to the islands of Kauai, Lanai, Maui, and Oahu. Your Committee finds that little fire ants deliver a painful sting when disturbed, and welts from the sting can persist for weeks. Little fire ants also infest agricultural fields, farms, and homes; damage crops; promote plant pests; and will sting humans and animals. Your Committee finds



that providing funds for the research, extension, and control of the little fire ant and other harmful ant species is critical to mitigate the negative impacts of these ants on the State's agriculture industry, the economy, the environment, and human health.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1518, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1518, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture,

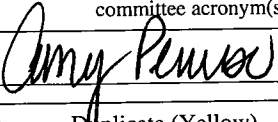


MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



HBOR 233-22

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture

|   |  |                        |             |                |
|---|--|------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b><br>HB1518   | <b>Committee Referral:</b><br>AGR, FIN | <b>Date:</b><br>2/9/22 |             |                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.   |  |                        |             |                |
| <b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit) |  |                        |             |                |
| <b>AGR Members</b>  | <b>Ayes</b>                            | <b>Ayes (WR)</b>       | <b>Nays</b> | <b>Excused</b> |
| 1. HASHEM, Mark J. (C)  | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)   | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 3. LOWEN, Nicole E.   | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 4. MARTEN, Lisa   | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 5. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.   | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 6. TODD, Chris  | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 7. TOKIOKA, James Kunane  | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
| 8. MATSUMOTO, Lauren  | ✓                                      |                        |             |                |
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| <b>TOTAL (8)</b>  | <b>8</b>                               |                        |             |                |
| <b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted  |  |                        |             |                |
| If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.<br><small>committee acronym(s)</small>   |  |                        |             |                |
| <b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>   |  |                        |             |                |
| <b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee     Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office     Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO   |  |                        |             |                |