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# 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 and natural biodiversity of the  
4 islands. The legislature supports the Hawaii 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 Hawaii 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 Hawaii invasive  
14 species council has effectively mitigated nonindigenous fungal  
15 pathogens introduced to Hawai'i--specifically, rapid ohia death,  
16 which was first identified on the island of Hawai'i in 2014. In  
17 2015, the Hawaii invasive species council awarded funds to the



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

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





# S.B. NO. 744

**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.

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

