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 Hawaii's geographic

2 location renders the State susceptible to invasive species that

3 adversely affect 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 federal agencies,

7 state departments, 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, research, and stakeholder outreach.

13   The legislature further finds that the Hawaii invasive

14 species council has effectively mitigated non-indigenous fungal

15 pathogens introduced to Hawaii--specifically, the fungal

16 pathogen that causes rapid ohia death, which was first

17 identified on the island of Hawaii in 2014. In 2015, the Hawaii

1   invasive species council awarded funds to the University of

2   Hawaii to support a post-doctoral researcher to assist an

3   interagency team of scientists in the Hilo area in studying how

4   the disease is transmitted and finding potential treatment

5   options. Additionally, the legislature finds that the

6   interagency effort spearheaded by the Hawaii invasive species

7   council provided a comprehensive response to rapid ohia death

8   that produced hundreds of volunteers statewide who were educated

9   on collecting ohia seeds to further conserve the species.

10   More recently, in 2020, the fungal pathogen that causes

11   coffee leaf rust was discovered for the first time in the United

12   States on the islands of Hawaii and Maui. The legislature finds

13   that coffee leaf rust causes severe defoliation that greatly

14   reduces the photosynthetic capacity of coffee plants. Long-term

15   effects of coffee leaf rust may include dieback, which has a

16   significant impact on the following year's coffee yield and

17   causes an estimated thirty per cent to eighty per cent loss if

18   not properly treated. The legislature further finds that

19   efforts to control coffee leaf rust are critical to sustaining

20   the coffee industry, which nets over $54,300,000 in revenue

21   annually, and the State must continue to support these efforts.

1   Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the

2 Hawaii invasive species council to classify the fungal pathogen

3 that causes coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its

4 administrative rules in order to utilize available funding for

5 mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions

6 for coffee leaf rust.

7   SECTION 2. No later than   , the Hawaii invasive

8 species council shall amend its administrative rules to classify

9 the fungal pathogen that causes coffee leaf rust as an invasive

10 species. The Hawaii invasive species council shall expend any

11 available moneys for the purpose of mitigation efforts,

12 research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf

13 rust.

14   SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

Report Title:
Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee
Leaf Rust

Description:
Requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify the
fungal pathogen that causes 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. Effective 6/30/3000.
(HD1)

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