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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii invasive  
2 species council has declared invasive species to be the single  
3 greatest threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment and  
4 the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors. The  
5 legislature finds that these threats are becoming more  
6 challenging because of environmental and financial factors and  
7 acting now will prevent future, costlier problems.

8           The legislature further finds that invasive species include  
9 animals, plants, and pathogens found on land and in the ocean  
10 waters. Notable invasive species include the little fire ant,  
11 coconut rhinoceros beetle, coqui frog, albizia and strawberry  
12 guava trees, unmanaged grasses, and brown tree snake.

13           The legislature further finds that the Hawaii invasive  
14 species council receives an annual net funding allocation of  
15 approximately \$5,750,000, of which approximately ninety per cent  
16 is redirected toward its competitive grant program. The  
17 remaining modest amount of funding is for the Hawaii invasive



1 species council's operating expenses, overhead, and budget and  
2 finance restriction. This funding allocation has not increased  
3 in four years and covers less than fifty per cent of the total  
4 amount of competitive grant proposals received. The need for  
5 more funding is exacerbated by inflation, the high cost of doing  
6 business in the State, and the need to attract and retain  
7 qualified staff with competitive cost-of-living adjustments. As  
8 a result, state funds are largely used only as bridge funding to  
9 simply keep these strategic programs viable. Partner agencies  
10 are largely limited to focusing on invasive species containment  
11 rather than eradication.

12 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
13 Hawaii invasive species council to ensure its viability to  
14 control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

15 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
16 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
18 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
19 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
20 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
21 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes



1 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
2 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
3 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
4 ceiling are that:

- 5 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
6 serve the public interest; and
- 7 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
8 addressed by this Act.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
12 the native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) to  
13 support the Hawaii invasive species council in addressing the  
14 invasive species crisis.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

HISC; Viability Funding; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to support the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to ensure its long-term viability and prevent future problems. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

