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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 163, Session  
2 Laws of Hawaii 2017, known as the Clift Tsuji Act, among other  
3 things, appropriated funds to the department of agriculture to  
4 support the department's biosecurity program for the period  
5 beginning fiscal year July 1, 2017, and ending June 30, 2019.  
6 However, the department was unable to utilize the full  
7 appropriation for its programs before its lapsing at the end of  
8 the appropriated period. Furthermore, the original source of  
9 funds, the agricultural development and food security special  
10 fund, was repealed by section 8 of Act 9, First Special Session  
11 Laws of Hawaii 2021.

12           The legislature recognizes the significant impact of  
13 invasive species on Hawaii's agriculture, environment, natural  
14 resources, public health, and economy and supports the  
15 biosecurity program under the department of agriculture.

16           The legislature further finds that the department of  
17 agriculture has created the biosecurity program to fight pests



1 and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit on  
2 several fronts by:

- 3 (1) Administering pre-entry measures to minimize the risk  
4 of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms  
5 without a permit entering the State;
- 6 (2) Conducting port-of-entry inspections to detect and  
7 quarantine or destroy pests upon arrival; and
- 8 (3) Administering post-entry measures to mitigate the  
9 establishment of pests in the State.

10 The department of agriculture has also supported the growth  
11 of Hawaii's agriculture industry by attempting to reduce the  
12 State's dependency on imported agricultural products that may  
13 contain pests.

14 Pursuant to section 150A-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the  
15 department of agriculture is required to implement the  
16 comprehensive biosecurity program to control and prevent  
17 increasing threats of pests and prohibited or restricted  
18 organisms without a permit from entering and spreading  
19 throughout the State. While inspections are critical,  
20 increasing the State's ability to prevent the entry of high-risk  
21 products would enhance its ability to mitigate and manage



1 invasive pests. This is vitally important not only to protect  
2 our fragile environment, but also to grow our local agricultural  
3 industries and to increase levels of self-sufficiency and  
4 sustainability.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
6 biosecurity program of the department of agriculture to develop  
7 and implement projects to increase local agricultural production  
8 and to lessen the entry of pests and prohibited or restricted  
9 organisms without a permit brought into the State on imported  
10 agricultural goods.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
14 the biosecurity program of the department of agriculture;  
15 provided that the sum appropriated shall be used for the  
16 following projects:

17 (1) Development of clean seed and new varietal  
18 improvements to address existing and emerging insects,  
19 diseases, pests, or other organisms detrimental to  
20 agriculture;

21 (2) Development of production and post-harvest treatments;



1 (3) Development and implementation of diagnostics to  
2 quickly and reliably identify new and evolving pests  
3 and diseases; and

4 (4) Development of pest management programs in  
5 agricultural production areas.

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

8 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
9 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
11 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
12 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
13 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
14 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
15 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
16 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
17 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
18 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
19 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
20 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
21 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:




# H.B. NO. 2619

1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
2 serve the public interest; and

3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:   
JAN 23 2024



# H.B. NO. 2619

**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Biosecurity; Pest Control; Invasive Species; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

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

