

JAN 19 2024

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10 fund, was repealed by section 8 of Act 9, First Special Session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 \$2,500,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
14 biosecurity program of the department of agriculture; provided
15 that the sum appropriated shall be used for the following
16 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;



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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:



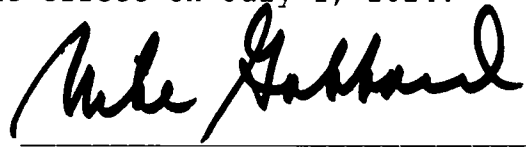
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- 1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
2 serve the public interest; and
3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
4 addressed by this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: _____



S.B. NO. 2419

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.

