

A Bill for an Act Relating to Bees.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are two parasitic honey bee mites, the *Varroa jacobsoni* and the *Acarapis woodi*, that are presently infesting the honey bee colonies in South America and Central America. The life span of honey bees infested with the mites are significantly shortened because they become malformed or their vital systems begin functioning abnormally. Infestations of honey bee colonies have resulted in a rapid and widespread decrease in honey bee populations and a concomitant decrease in honey production. Thus far, although these mites have not reached Hawaii's shores, there is concern among Hawaii's beekeepers that the parasites can easily be transported on live or dead honey bees that are being imported to Hawaii.

The legislature finds that there is a growing demand on the mainland for Hawaii's queen bees for breeding purposes and for the honey produced by the honey bees. The honey bee industry is a growing industry that has great potential to significantly increase the contribution of the agricultural industry to the State's overall economy and it is in the public interest to take measures to ensure the continued viability of the beekeeping industry. Accordingly, it is the purpose of this Act to protect the honey bee industry by prohibiting the importation of honey bees.

SECTION 2. Section 150A-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§150A-6 Soil, snakes, injurious insects, etc., importation prohibited. All persons are prohibited from receiving for transportation, bringing, or causing to be brought to the State, for the purpose of debarkation or entry thereinto, any of the following named articles:

- (1) Soil, provided that limited quantities of soil may be imported into the State for experimental or other scientific purposes, under permit with conditions prescribed by the department.
- (2) Rocks, plants, plant products, or any commodity with soil adhering thereto.
- (3) Any live snake, flying fox, fruit bat, Gila monster, injurious insect, or eels of the order Anguilliformes, or any other animal in any stage of development that is detrimental or potentially harmful to agriculture or horticulture or animal or public health, or natural resources including native biota, or has an adverse effect on the environment as determined by the board; provided that a government agency may bring into and maintain in the State not more than two live, nonvenomous snakes of the male sex solely for the purposes of exhibition in a public zoological park, but only after the board is presented with satisfactory evidence that the sex of the snakes was established to be male prior to the shipment, and after the board gives written approval conditioned upon such terms as the board may deem necessary, which terms shall include the continuing supervision and control by the board and shall provide that the board may determine the manner in which such snakes shall be disposed of or destroyed. In case of the death of one or both snakes, the government agency may import and maintain replacements subject to the above conditions.
- (4) Any live or dead honey bees, or used bee equipment that is not certified by the department to be free of pests; provided that nothing herein shall prohibit the importation of bee semen.

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[(4)] (5) The board shall maintain either a list of animals and plants which may be imported into the State or a list of animals and plants which are prohibited entry into the State.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 1, 1985.)

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