



GOV. MSG. NO. 1230

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

June 15, 2012

The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

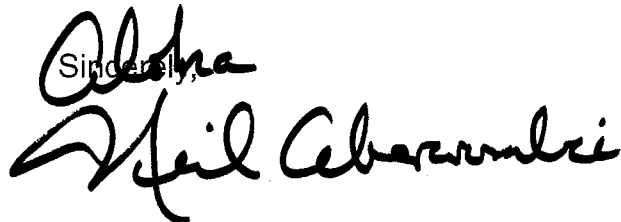
The Honorable Calvin Say, Speaker
and Members of the House
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Tsutsui, Speaker Say and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 15, 2012, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1943 HD2 SD2 CD1

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.
Act 128 (12)

Sincerely,


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

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 the brown tree snake
 2 is an invasive species that can damage the balance of the
 3 State's ecosystem; threaten native forest vertebrate species;
 4 precipitate power outages affecting private, commercial, and
 5 military activities; cause widespread loss of domestic birds and
 6 pets; and cause considerable emotional trauma to residents and
 7 visitors alike when invading human habitats. The brown tree
 8 snake was responsible for devastating the majority of the native
 9 bird population in Guam. Due to the availability of prey and
 10 lack of predators in introduced habitats such as Guam, brown
 11 tree snakes have been known to grow to sizes larger than their
 12 normal one to two meters (3.3 to 6.6 feet) in length.

13 The legislature has supported and provided for the
 14 biosecurity program under the department of agriculture since
 15 2008, because it recognizes the impact of invasive species to
 16 Hawaii's agriculture, environment, natural resources, public
 17 health, and economy. To improve the effectiveness of the
 18 program, the legislature recommends reinstatement of the



1 detector-dog program. The detector-dog program provides an
2 important resource to improve interdiction of invasive species
3 into Hawaii. The dogs excel in the detection of flora, snakes,
4 aquatic animals, and in public relations. In airport baggage
5 claim areas, the presence of detector-dogs alone assists in
6 deterring smuggling of commodities through the passenger
7 terminal area.

8 Previously, the detector-dog program was funded by federal
9 funds, and thus limited to brown tree snake interdiction. The
10 use of state funds will allow the department of agriculture to
11 use these dogs in other invasive species prevention related
12 activities. In addition to the brown tree snake inspections,
13 detector-dogs will be used to inspect incoming airline baggage
14 and incoming small-package air cargo shipments.

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for detector-
16 dog inspector positions within the department of agriculture.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$162,540 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 to match
20 the grant provided by the federal Office of Insular Affairs to
21 fund the plant quarantine detector-dog program, including one



1 inspector/detector-dog trainer and three inspectors/dog
2 handlers.

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

5 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a
6 report on the status of its progress in implementing the
7 detector-dog program funded by this Act to the legislature no
8 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2013
9 regular session.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

APPROVED this 15 day of JUN , 2012


GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

