
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the unchecked spread
2 of invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's
3 economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of
4 Hawaii's people. Invasive pests can cause millions of dollars
5 in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the
6 destruction of native forests, the spread of disease, and the
7 quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

8 Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the
9 destructive power of invasive pests. In Guam, the accidental
10 introduction of the brown tree snake has resulted in widespread
11 devastation. Without natural predators or competition for food,
12 brown tree snake populations have grown exponentially, causing
13 mass extinctions of endemic birds. Where there were once bird
14 songs, the silent forests of Guam are now home to as many as
15 fifteen thousand snakes per square mile. Just one new pest like
16 the brown tree snake could forever change the character of the
17 Hawaiian Islands.



1 Despite our ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate
2 invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly at
3 risk from insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other
4 invasive pests. The coqui frog, *Salvinia molesta*, *Miconia*
5 *calvescens*, ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little fire ant
6 are all present in Hawaii, disrupting the delicate balance of our
7 ecosystems, crowding out native species, and reducing the
8 biodiversity of our islands.

9 The department of agriculture has created a biosecurity
10 program to fight invasive species on several fronts by:

- 11 (1) Administering pre-entry measures to minimize the risk
12 of invasive pests entering the State;
- 13 (2) Conducting port-of-entry inspections to detect and
14 quarantine or destroy pests upon arrival; and
- 15 (3) Administering post-entry measures to mitigate the
16 establishment of pests in the State.

17 The department has also supported the growth of Hawaii's
18 agriculture by attempting to reduce the State's dependency on
19 imported agricultural products that may contain pests. The
20 legislature finds that sufficient support for a biosecurity
21 program is vital to the public's health and welfare.



1 The purpose of this Act is to reaffirm the legislature's
2 finding that the implementation of the department of
3 agriculture's biosecurity program is vital to the State and
4 requires the department to complete the implementation of the
5 program.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for
9 the biosecurity program of the department of agriculture.

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

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

13



Report Title:

Biosecurity Program; Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for FY 2014-2015 for the department of agriculture's biosecurity program. (HD1)

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