A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF PESTICIDES.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many Hawaii residents are becoming increasingly concerned about restricted use pesticides applied by major seed companies. The Hawaii Pesticides Law, Chapter 149A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the department of agriculture to regulate the sale and use of pesticides and provides a framework to properly address these public concerns.

The legislature further finds that in 2010, the State was faced with a significant reduction in force, which resulted in the elimination of personnel positions needed to administer Chapter 149A and perform required testing of restricted use pesticides. The reduction in force was primarily due to the fiscal crisis the State experienced at that time. However, the reduction created an adverse effect on the overall economy as government services were significantly reduced.

To properly address concerns raised by the public, and in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare, it is of utmost importance that appropriate staffing levels be committed
and restored so the department of agriculture can properly
administer and regulate restricted use pesticides, in accordance
with the Hawaii Pesticides Law. An appropriation of $555,000
supports an additional three inspector positions for the
department of agriculture, including fringe benefits.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $555,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the department of agriculture to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the hiring of necessary staff.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: __________

BY REQUEST

By Request

JAN 10 2014
Report Title:
Pesticides; Regulation; Appropriation

Description:
Appropriates funds for pesticide regulation.

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