
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that macadamia nuts are
2 among the top five highest grossing agricultural commodities in
3 Hawaii. According to the United States Department of
4 Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Hawaii
5 harvested an estimated forty-four million pounds of macadamia
6 nut crop for the 2012-2013 crop year. The estimated farm value
7 of macadamia nuts for that same year is \$35,200,000.

8 In March 2005, the macadamia felted coccid, *Eriococcus*
9 *ironsidei*, was discovered on macadamia nut trees in South Kona.
10 Originally from Australia, this insect can cause severe damage
11 to macadamia nut trees when uncontrolled. Initially,
12 insecticidal oils researched and recommended by the University
13 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources
14 were thought to be effective at controlling the spread of these
15 insects. However, infestations of macadamia felted coccids have
16 now spread to orchards in the Pahala area. Although
17 insecticidal oil treatment has been effective in controlling the
18 insect in young macadamia trees, this treatment has proven



1 ineffective on older macadamia nut trees due to their large size
2 and heavy canopy. Because insecticidal oil is proving to be
3 ineffective, farmers must develop new methods to control the
4 coccid.

5 Research is currently being done by the department of
6 agriculture and the University of Hawaii college of tropical
7 agriculture and human resources to develop new methods to
8 control the macadamia felted coccid. The following research
9 work is currently being conducted or planned:

- 10 (1) Determining the role of tree canopy modification and
11 understory plants to encourage the presence of natural
12 enemies to the macadamia felted coccid;
- 13 (2) Analyzing the potential of alternative pesticides;
- 14 (3) Determining the impact of macadamia felted coccid on
15 plant health and yield;
- 16 (4) Determining action thresholds for macadamia felted
17 coccid management;
- 18 (5) Determining the phenology of macadamia felted coccid
19 in the field; and



1 (6) Identifying and testing biological control agents in
2 Australia that could be introduced in Hawaii to
3 control the macadamia felted coccid.

4 The legislature anticipates that the macadamia felted
5 coccid, if uncontrolled, will continue to spread to other
6 regions and counties of Hawaii and may devastate the macadamia
7 nut industry.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for
9 research to develop new methods of preventing and treating
10 macadamia felted coccid infestations.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
15 year 2016-2017 for the department of agriculture, in cooperation
16 with the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture
17 and human resources, to research and develop methods for the
18 prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Macadamia Nut Trees; Macadamia Felted Coccid; Agriculture;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with UH CTAHR, to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid. (SD1)

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