

JAN 18 2019

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# 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 invasion of  
2 Hawai'i by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and  
3 other pests is the single greatest threat to the State's economy  
4 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of the  
5 people of Hawai'i. Pests already cause millions of dollars in  
6 crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction  
7 of native forests, and the spread of disease, but many more  
8 harmful pests now threaten to invade Hawai'i and cause more  
9 damage. Stopping the influx of new pests and containing their  
10 spread are essential to the State's current and future well-  
11 being.

12           The legislature further recognizes the efforts made by the  
13 department of land and natural resources' division of forestry  
14 and wildlife, Hawai'i branch, and the Big Island invasive species  
15 committee to control high-threat invasive species throughout  
16 Hawai'i county, especially efforts in Hawai'i county to control  
17 miconia, a fast-growing weedy tree that can increase erosion and



1 landslides due to its shallow root system. Large infestations  
2 of miconia are on the windward side of Hawai'i island with a  
3 smaller population on the leeward side, which pose a threat to  
4 the local environment, cultural practices, and economy.

5 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to establish  
6 invasive species technician positions for the department of land  
7 and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife in  
8 Hawai'i county to control invasive species, like miconia, from  
9 negatively impacting the environment and economy.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2020-2021 to establish five permanent full-time equivalent (5.0  
15 FTE) invasive species technician positions at the department of  
16 land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife,  
17 Hawai'i branch, to address invasive plants and animals in Hawai'i  
18 county.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
20 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

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# S.B. NO. 871

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 871

**Report Title:**

Invasive Species; Hawaii Island; Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Hawaii branch, for invasive species technician positions on Hawaii island to address invasive plants and animals.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

