June 21, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 21, 2019, the following bill was signed into law:

HB297 HD1 SD1 RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL.
ACT 106 (19)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai‘i
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Aedes aegypti mosquito is the primary mosquito species that is responsible for transmitting human viruses, including Zika and dengue. The legislature further finds that research by the World Mosquito Project indicates that the introduction of Wolbachia bacteria into mosquitoes makes the mosquitoes more resistant to infection with pathogens that can cause diseases in humans, including Zika and dengue, and therefore less likely to transmit these diseases to humans. However, while Wolbachia bacteria are natural bacteria in some mosquitoes, it is not usually found in the Aedes aegypti mosquito. Mosquitoes with naturally-occurring Wolbachia bacteria are not presently known to exist in the State.

The legislature further finds that the release of Wolbachia-carrying Aedes aegypti mosquitoes and subsequent interbreeding with wild mosquitoes reduce the ability of cumulative mosquito populations to serve as disease vectors.
without suppressing mosquito populations and, therefore, alter  

ing ecosystem balance. Research has also shown that  

Wolbachia is safe for humans, animals, and the environment.  

The department of agriculture regulates the importation of  

animals, including insects, into Hawaii by maintaining lists of  

conditionally approved animals that require a permit for import  

into the State, restricted animals that require a permit for  

both import into the State and possession, and animals that are  

prohibited entry into the State.  

The legislature further finds that protecting the residents  

of Hawaii from mosquito-borne illnesses such as Zika and dengue  

viruses warrants further inquiry into the feasibility and safety  

of importing and releasing mosquitoes with Wolbachia bacteria.  

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to investigate potential  
innovative vector control programs by:  

(1) Directing the department of agriculture to review the  

Aedes aegypti mosquito with Wolbachia bacteria,  

including Aedes aegypti mosquitoes originating from  

Hawaii stock that could be imported for landscape  

scale mosquito control, and render a determination for
placement of the mosquito on the appropriate animal
import list; and

(2) Directing the departments of agriculture, health, and
land and natural resources to collaborate on a report
to the legislature that includes recommendations
regarding the importation of the Aedes aegypti
mosquito with Wolbachia bacteria, including Aedes
aegypti mosquitoes originating from Hawaii stock that
could be imported for landscape scale mosquito
control, and recommendations for appropriate vector
control programs.

SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall review the
Aedes aegypti mosquito with Wolbachia bacteria, including Aedes
aegypti mosquitoes originating from Hawaii stock that could be
imported for landscape scale mosquito control, and render a
determination for placement of the mosquito on the appropriate
animal import list, pursuant to section 150A-6.2, Hawaii Revised
Statutes.

SECTION 3. The departments of agriculture, health, and
land and natural resources shall collaborate on a report to the
legislature that shall include:
(1) Findings and recommendations regarding the importation and release of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, including *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes originating from Hawaii stock that could be imported for landscape scale mosquito control;

(2) Determination for the placement of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria on the appropriate animal import list pursuant to section 150A-6.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the status of the import list placement process;

(3) Recommendations, plans, timeline, and implementation costs for a mosquito control program using the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, if permitted, and, if not permitted, recommendations for other alternative vector control means; and

(4) Any other relevant findings, recommendations, and any necessary proposed legislation.

The report shall be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2020.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
H.B. NO. 297
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 21 day of JUN, 2019

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019.

Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 9, 2019
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2019.

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate