



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

June 26, 2019

**GOV. MSG. NO. 1249**

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 26, 2019, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1548 HD1 SD2 CD1

**RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH  
ACT 147 (19)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that rapid ohia death has  
 2 killed hundreds of thousands of native ohia trees and affected  
 3 more than 135,000 acres of forest on Hawaii island. Ohia is the  
 4 State's most common tree, comprising eighty per cent of its  
 5 native forests. Ohia trees provide important habitats for other  
 6 plants and animals and gather precipitation to recharge island  
 7 aquifers. Ohia forests have been treasured by native Hawaiians  
 8 for centuries for both practical uses and art, including hula,  
 9 where the tree is the kinolau of important Hawaiian gods. The  
 10 widespread loss of ohia would be catastrophic for Hawaii's  
 11 culture and native ecosystems. It would reduce the municipal  
 12 and agricultural water supplies and eliminate important cultural  
 13 ties to the forest.

14 The legislature further finds that rapid ohia death is  
 15 caused by two recently arrived fungi, *Ceratocystis lukuohia* and  
 16 *Ceratocystis huliohia*. *Ceratocystis lukuohia* has caused more  
 17 than ninety per cent of the rapid ohia death on Hawaii island.  
 18 Both species have been found on Kauai.



1 The legislature finds that these two fungi are released  
2 into the environment by boring beetles who are attracted to dead  
3 ohia trees. The non-native beetles bore into the wood,  
4 releasing dust and spreading disease. Rapid ohia death attacks  
5 trees where they have wounds, which may be caused by hooved  
6 animals. Additional research is needed to better understand the  
7 role of beetles and hooved animals in spreading the disease.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
9 department of land and natural resources to study and combat  
10 rapid ohia death.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000 or so much  
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 to study  
14 and combat rapid ohia death in the State.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
16 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

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

APPROVED this 26 day of JUN, 2019



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 1548, HD 1, SD 2, CD 1

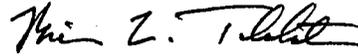
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2019  
Honolulu, 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

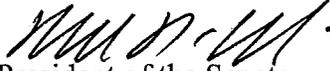


Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: April 30, 2019  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate