
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL.

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

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

14 The legislature further finds that the release of
15 *Wolbachia*-carrying *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes and subsequent
16 interbreeding with wild mosquitoes reduce the ability of
17 cumulative mosquito populations to serve as disease vectors



1 without suppressing mosquito populations and, therefore,
2 altering ecosystem balance. Research has also shown that
3 *Wolbachia* is safe for humans, animals, and the environment.

4 The department of agriculture regulates the importation of
5 animals, including insects, into Hawaii by maintaining lists of
6 conditionally approved animals that require a permit for import
7 into the State, restricted animals that require a permit for
8 both import into the State and possession, and animals that are
9 prohibited entry into the State.

10 The legislature further finds that protecting the residents
11 of Hawaii from mosquito-borne illnesses such as Zika and dengue
12 viruses warrants further inquiry into the feasibility and safety
13 of importing and releasing mosquitoes with *Wolbachia* bacteria.
14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to investigate potential
15 innovative vector control programs by:

16 (1) Directing the department of agriculture to review the
17 *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria,
18 including *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes originating from
19 Hawaii stock that could be imported for landscape
20 scale mosquito control, and render a determination for



1 placement of the mosquito on the appropriate animal
2 import list; and
3 (2) Directing the departments of agriculture, health, and
4 land and natural resources to collaborate on a report
5 to the legislature that includes recommendations
6 regarding the importation of the *Aedes aegypti*
7 mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, including *Aedes*
8 *aegypti* mosquitoes originating from Hawaii stock that
9 could be imported for landscape scale mosquito
10 control, and recommendations for appropriate vector
11 control programs.

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

19 SECTION 3. The departments of agriculture, health, and
20 land and natural resources shall collaborate on a report to the
21 legislature that shall include:



- 1 (1) Findings and recommendations regarding the importation
2 and release of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with
3 *Wolbachia* bacteria, including *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes
4 originating from Hawaii stock that could be imported
5 for landscape scale mosquito control;
- 6 (2) Determination for the placement of the *Aedes*
7 *aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria on the
8 appropriate animal import list pursuant to section
9 150A-6.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and the status of
10 the import list placement process;
- 11 (3) Recommendations, plans, timeline, and implementation
12 costs for a mosquito control program using the *Aedes*
13 *aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, if
14 permitted, and, if not permitted, recommendations for
15 other alternative vector control means; and
- 16 (4) Any other relevant findings, recommendations, and any
17 necessary proposed legislation.

18 The report shall be submitted to the legislature no later than
19 twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of
20 2020.

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

DOA; Aedes Aegypti Mosquito; Wolbachia Bacteria; Vector Control;
Animal Importation; Report

Description:

Directs DOA 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 to place it on the appropriate animal import list. Requires DOA, DOH, and DLNR to collaborate on a report to the Legislature with recommendations for appropriate vector control programs. (SD1)

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