
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 two-lined
2 spittlebug, *Prosapia bicincta*, is an invasive insect that
3 attacks key forage grasses used by the livestock ranching
4 industry. In 2016, the state's first two-lined spittlebug
5 infestation was discovered in Kailua-Kona, on the island of
6 Hawaii, where the pest had damaged nearly two thousand acres of
7 pasture land. Many high quality pasture grasses, including
8 *Bracharia*, *Kikuyu*, *Pangola*, *St. Augustine*, and *Bermuda grass* are
9 susceptible to *P.bincincta* attacks. During heavy infestations,
10 dying plant tissue cascade from the leaves to the roots,
11 ultimately causing the death of the whole plant. The resulting
12 damage does not allow for any regrowth, requiring ranchers to
13 totally replant affected pastures.

14 The legislature further finds that two-lined spittlebug
15 infestations have reduced the quality of some forage pastures in
16 Hawaii by decreasing their nutritional value, palatability, and
17 productivity. Infestations of the pest also promote the



1 establishment of weeds and lower-quality foraging grasses.
2 Monthly surveys carried out on the island of Hawaii since 2017
3 show that the pest is rapidly expanding its range and now covers
4 more than two hundred seventy-five square miles.

5 The legislature recognizes that livestock ranching is a
6 highly productive and extremely valuable industry on all of
7 Hawaii's major islands. The state's livestock industry has an
8 estimated annual value of more than \$68,000,000, with over one
9 hundred forty-two thousand beef cattle on more than one thousand
10 three hundred ranches. Collectively, these ranches cover nearly
11 twenty-five per cent of the state's land area.

12 The legislature also recognizes that the expanding
13 livestock industry serves as an economic engine for the state
14 and a major employer for local communities. This is
15 particularly true on the island of Hawaii, where nearly sixty
16 per cent of the state's cattle are raised. Additionally,
17 seventy per cent of the beef cattle in Hawaii are raised on
18 sod-forming grasses such as Kikuyu and Pangola. Consequently,
19 two-lined spittlebugs threaten both job and food security in the
20 state, making it crucial to address infestations and to restrict
21 further spread. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to



1 appropriate funds to mitigate and control the two-lined
2 spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the invasive
4 species fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$659,000 or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2022-2023 to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug,
8 including but not limited to reducing the two-lined spittlebug
9 population using insecticides, integrating weed management
10 measures in affected rangelands, and reseeding pastures damaged
11 by infestations.

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

14 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a
15 report of its findings and recommendations regarding efforts to
16 mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug and the recovery
17 of pasture lands, including any proposed legislation, to the
18 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the regular session of 2022. The report shall document the
20 expenditure of funds and the progress of activities funded by
21 this Act.



H.B. NO. 237

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 21 2021



H.B. NO. 237

Report Title:

Invasive Species; Control; Two-lined Spittlebug; Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture for the control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of the rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.

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