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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that macadamia nuts are  
2 among the top five grossing agricultural commodities in Hawaii.  
3 According to the United States Department of Agriculture,  
4 National Agricultural Statistics Service, Hawaii harvested an  
5 estimated forty-four million pounds of macadamia nut crop for  
6 the 2012-2013 crop year. The estimated farm value of macadamia  
7 nuts for that same year is \$35,200,000.

8           In March 2005, the macadamia felted coccid, *Eriococcus*  
9 *ironsidei*, was discovered on macadamia nut trees in South Kona.  
10 Originally from Australia, this insect can cause severe damage  
11 to macadamia nut trees when uncontrolled. Initially,  
12 insecticidal oils researched and recommended by the University  
13 of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human resources  
14 were thought to be effective at controlling the spread of these  
15 insects. However, infestations of macadamia felted coccids have  
16 now spread to orchards in the Pahala area. Although  
17 insecticidal oil treatment has been effective in controlling the



1 insect in young macadamia trees, this treatment has proven  
2 ineffective on older macadamia nut trees due to their large size  
3 and heavy canopy. Because insecticidal oil is proving to be  
4 ineffective, farmers must develop new methods to control the  
5 coccid.

6 Research is currently being done by the department of  
7 agriculture and the University of Hawaii college of tropical  
8 agriculture and human resources to develop new methods to  
9 control the macadamia felted coccid. The following research  
10 work is currently being conducted or planned:

- 11 (1) Determining the role of tree canopy modification and  
12 understory plants to encourage the presence of natural  
13 enemies to the macadamia felted coccid;
- 14 (2) Analyzing the potential of alternative pesticides;
- 15 (3) Determining the impact of macadamia felted coccid on  
16 plant health and yield;
- 17 (4) Determining action thresholds for macadamia felted  
18 coccid management;
- 19 (5) Determining the phenology of macadamia felted coccid  
20 in the field;



1           (6) Identifying and testing biological control agents in  
2           Australia that could be introduced in Hawaii to  
3           control the macadamia felted coccid.

4           The legislature anticipates that the macadamia felted  
5           coccid, if uncontrolled, will continue to spread to other  
6           regions and counties of Hawaii and may devastate the macadamia  
7           nut industry.

8           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys for  
9           research to develop new methods of preventing and treating  
10          macadamia felted coccid infestations.

11          SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
12          revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
13          thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
14          same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
15          2016-2017 for the department of agriculture, in cooperation with  
16          the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and  
17          human resources, to research and develop methods for the  
18          prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

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



# H.B. NO. 507

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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JAN 23 2015



# H.B. NO. 507

**Report Title:**

Macadamia Nut Trees; Macadamia Felted Coccid; Agriculture;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys to the department of agriculture, in cooperation with UH, to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

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