
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 invasion of
2 Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
3 other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy
4 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of the
5 people of Hawaii. Pests already cause millions of dollars in
6 crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction
7 of native forests, and the spread of disease, but many more
8 harmful pests now threaten to invade Hawaii and cause more
9 damage. Stopping the influx of new pests and containing their
10 spread are essential to the State's current and future well-
11 being.

12 The legislature further recognizes the efforts made by the
13 department of land and natural resources division of forestry
14 and wildlife and the Big Island invasive species committee to
15 control high-threat invasive species throughout the island of
16 Hawaii, especially efforts to control miconia, a fast-growing
17 weedy tree that can increase erosion and landslides due to its



1 shallow root system. Large infestations of miconia are on the
2 windward side of the island of Hawaii with a smaller population
3 on the leeward side, posing a threat to the local environment,
4 cultural practices, and economy.

5 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to establish
6 invasive species technician positions for the department of land
7 and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife in the
8 county of Hawaii to control invasive species, like miconia, and
9 to prevent these invasive species from negatively impacting the
10 environment and economy.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to
14 establish five permanent full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) invasive
15 species technician positions at the department of land and
16 natural resources division of forestry and wildlife to address
17 invasive plants and animals in the county of Hawaii.

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

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
21 2033.



Report Title:

DLNR; Invasive Species; County of Hawaii; Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife for invasive species technician positions in the county of Hawaii to address invasive plants and animals. Effective 12/31/33. (SD1)

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