



GOV. MSG. NO. 1320

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 5, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second 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 July 5, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

SB1552 SD2 HD1 CD1

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.
ACT 217

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

THE SENATE
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

S.B. NO. 1552
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1,
5 C.D. 1, and this Act will cause the state general fund
6 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2023-2024 to be exceeded by
7 \$1,064,267,367 or 11.0 per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2023-2024 in H.B. No. 300, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1, and this
10 Act only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund
11 expenditure ceiling are that:

12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and

14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that little fire ants are
17 an invasive species that are spreading rapidly throughout the
18 State. Little fire ants have a painful sting that can cause



1 long-lasting itchy rashes or welts and also irritate, and
2 sometimes blind, household pets. Additionally, these pests
3 cause significant disruption and economic damage to Hawaii.

4 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii ant lab was
5 established in 2009 to address the overwhelming need for
6 research, advice, and technical assistance to address and
7 eradicate rapidly spreading little fire ant infestations. The
8 Hawaii invasive species council and Hawaii department of
9 agriculture provided the majority of funding for the Hawaii ant
10 lab. However, that funding ceased due to budget cuts and the
11 repeal of the agricultural development and food security special
12 fund. The reduction in funding has led to staff having to
13 reduce working hours for parts of 2021 and 2022. While the
14 legislature made a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 in 2022 to
15 address the funding shortfall and help the Hawaii ant lab retain
16 its staff, the funding for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is
17 uncertain.

18 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support
19 the Hawaii ant lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants
20 in the State.

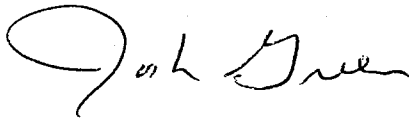


1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 for
4 LNR402, native resources and fire protection program, to support
5 the Hawaii ant lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants
6 in the State.

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

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

APPROVED this **5th** day of **July** , 2023



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII




THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 4, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 1552, SD 2, HD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 4, 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives