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# 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.



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Hawaii Ant Lab; Little Fire Ant; Appropriation;  
Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support the Hawaii Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State. (CD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

