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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the two-lined  
2 spittlebug is an invasive insect that destroys key forage  
3 grasses used by the livestock ranching industry. In 2016, the  
4 State's first two-lined spittlebug infestation was discovered in  
5 Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii, where the pest ravaged  
6 nearly two thousand acres of pastureland. Grasses damaged by  
7 two-lined spittlebug infestations are often unsalvageable and  
8 must be replanted.

9           The legislature further finds that two-lined spittlebug  
10 infestations have reduced the quality of forage pastures in  
11 Hawaii by reducing their nutritional value, palatability, and  
12 productivity. Infestations of the pest also promote the  
13 establishment of weeds and lower-quality forage grasses.  
14 Monthly surveys conducted on the island of Hawaii since 2017  
15 indicate that the two-lined spittlebug is rapidly spreading  
16 across the island and, as of September 2021, infests more than  
17 two hundred seventy-eight square miles of land.



1           The legislature further finds that livestock ranching is a  
2 highly productive and extremely valuable industry on all of  
3 Hawaii's major islands. The State's livestock industry annually  
4 produces an estimated value of more than \$68,000,000 with over  
5 one hundred forty-two thousand beef cattle on more than one  
6 thousand three hundred ranches. Collectively, these ranches  
7 cover more than twenty per cent of the State's land area.

8           The legislature further finds that the expanding livestock  
9 industry serves as an economic engine for the State and as a  
10 major employer for local communities. This is particularly true  
11 on the island of Hawaii where nearly sixty per cent of the  
12 State's cattle is raised. Additionally, seventy per cent of all  
13 beef cattle in the State are raised on sod-forming grasses, such  
14 as kikuyu and pangola. It is crucial that the State addresses  
15 the threat of the two-lined spittlebug and restrict its spread  
16 as it harms Hawaii's livestock industry, employment, and food  
17 security.

18           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
19 funds for the mitigation and control of the two-lined spittlebug  
20 and for the recovery of areas affected by infestation.



1 SECTION 2. 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 Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes  
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
11 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 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$800,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
19 department of agriculture to:



1 (1) Mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined  
2 spittlebug and undertake recovery efforts for lands  
3 damaged by the two-line spittlebug; and

4 (2) Take measures, including the use of insecticides, weed  
5 management, and reseeding of pastures, as necessary to  
6 reduce the population of the two-lined spittlebug and  
7 to assist in recovery efforts.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. The department of agriculture shall submit a  
11 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
12 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
13 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2025. The  
14 report shall:

15 (1) Itemize the expenditures of moneys appropriated by  
16 this Act; and

17 (2) Discuss the progress of activities to mitigate and  
18 control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug.

19 SECTION 5. The appropriation made by this Act shall not  
20 lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the  
21 appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the



1 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse as  
2 of that date.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2024



# H.B. NO. 2131

**Report Title:**

DOA; Invasive Species; Control and Mitigation; Two-Lined Spittlebug; Report; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug and to fund recovery efforts for areas affected by it. Requires a report to the Legislature. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation.

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

