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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING MYCOPESTICIDES AS A  
METHOD TO CONTROL WASMANNIA AUROPUNCTATA.

1           WHEREAS, the presence of *Wasmannia auropunctata*, commonly  
2 known as little fire ants, an invasive species native to South  
3 America, poses a significant threat to public safety,  
4 environmental stability, and community health; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, these aggressive and harmful ants are spreading  
7 rapidly throughout the Hawaiian Islands, and their stings can  
8 cause intense burning sensations, painful itchy welts, and  
9 adverse health reactions, including blindness, in humans,  
10 animals, and especially children; and

11  
12           WHEREAS, mycopesticides, which include mycoinsecticides,  
13 mycofungicides, mycoherbicides, and nematophagous fungi, are  
14 products with active ingredients consisting of fungal cells,  
15 such as spores or hyphae, that produce toxins that eventually  
16 kill their host species, whether they are insects, other fungi,  
17 weeds, or nematodes; and

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19           WHEREAS, various mycopesticides have been used as early as  
20 approximately 1880 as biocontrol agents of agricultural pests  
21 and offer a more environmentally friendly, species-specific  
22 alternative to broad-spectrum, conventional pesticides; and

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24           WHEREAS, mycopesticides require lower research and  
25 development costs compared to conventional pesticides and pose  
26 reduced risks to humans and animals; and

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28           WHEREAS, mycopesticides are very species-specific, and the  
29 scientific literature has not yet shown which species of fungus  
30 could be effective against *Wasmannia auropunctata*; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, any potential negative side effects of a  
3 mycopesticide on the Native Hawaiian ecosystem should be  
4 thoroughly investigated before the mycopesticide is introduced;  
5 and

6  
7 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii is uniquely positioned to  
8 study this issue as Hawaii's only R1 Research University; now,  
9 therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
12 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
13 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the University of  
14 Hawaii is requested to conduct a study evaluating the  
15 feasibility of using mycopesticides as a method to control  
16 *Wasmannia auropunctata*; and

17  
18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study is requested to  
19 determine which species of mycopesticides, if any, could be used  
20 as a method to control *Wasmannia auropunctata* and, if a species  
21 is found, to determine what potential:

22  
23 (1) Advantages, if any, this mycopesticide could have  
24 compared to current methods of control, including but  
25 not limited to factors related to cost, human health,  
26 and environmental health; and

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28 (2) Negative impacts, if any, this mycopesticide could  
29 have if released into Hawaii's ecosystem; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is  
32 requested to submit a report of its findings and  
33 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
35 the Regular Session of 2025; and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
39 University of Hawaii; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;  
40 and Research Manager of the Hawaii Ant Lab.



H.C.R. NO. 168

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OFFERED BY:

*NAB*

MAR 08 2024

