HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014 STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. ¹⁹³¹ H.D. 1 S.D. 2

C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that macadamia nuts are
 among the five top-grossing agricultural commodities in Hawaii.
 According to the United States Department of Agriculture,
 National Agricultural Statistics Service, Hawaii harvested an
 estimated forty-four million pounds in macadamia nut crop during
 the 2012-2013 crop year. The estimated farm value of macadamia
 nuts for that same year was \$35,200,000.

8 In March 2005, the macadamia felted coccid, Eriococcus ironsidei, was discovered on macadamia nut trees in South Kona. 9 10 Originally from Australia, this insect can cause severe damage 11 to macadamia nut trees when uncontrolled. Initially, 12 insecticidal oils researched and recommended by the University of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human resources 13 14 were effective at controlling the spread of these insects. 15 After successful suppression of the original infestation in 2005, however, infestations of macadamia felted coccid were most 16 17 recently found in the Pahala area. Although insecticidal oil treatment has been effective in eradicating the insect from 18 HB1931 CD1 LRB 14-2539-1.doc



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1 young sapling trees in the Pahala area, this treatment has
2 proven ineffective on older macadamia nut trees because the
3 trees are too large to receive adequate coverage of the
4 insecticidal oil. Because insecticidal oil is proving to be
5 ineffective, farmers must develop new methods to control the
6 infestation of macadamia felted coccid, which could devastate
7 the macadamia nut industry in Hawaii.

8 According to the department of agriculture, to develop new 9 methods to control the macadamia felted coccid, researchers 10 must:

11 (1) Investigate the role of tree canopy modification and
12 understory plants to encourage the presence of natural
13 enemies to the macadamia felted coccid;

14 (2) Analyze the potential of alternative pesticides;

15 (3) Determine the impact of macadamia felted coccid on16 plant health;

- 17 (4) Determine action thresholds for macadamia felted18 coccid management;
- 19 (5) Determine the phenology of macadamia felted coccid in20 the field; and



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1 (6) Identify and test biological control agents in 2 Australia that could be introduced in Hawaii to 3 control the macadamia felted coccid. 4 The legislature anticipates that the macadamia felted 5 coccid will spread to other regions and counties of Hawaii if 6 uncontrolled and could devastate the macadamia nut industry. 7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate 8 funds for research to develop new methods of preventing and 9 treating macadamia felted coccid infestations. 10 There is appropriated out of the general SECTION 2. revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$360,000 or so much 11 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the 13 department of agriculture, in cooperation with the college of 14 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, to research and develop methods for the 15 16 prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid. 17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act. 18 19 SECTION 3. The appropriation made pursuant to section 2 of this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for 20

21 which the appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from



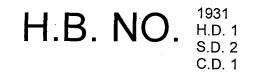
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the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2016, shall lapse as of that date.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.





Report Title:

Macadamia Nut Trees; Macadamia Felted Coccid; Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to DOA to research and develop methods for the prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid. Makes an appropriation. Effective 7/1/2014. (CD1)

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