

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that coffee is the fourth
2 largest agricultural crop in the State and is a highly valued
3 commodity in Hawaii's economy. Coffee plantations cover
4 approximately eight thousand acres of land in the State and
5 generate total farm revenues of approximately \$30,000,000. In
6 addition to a coffee farm's value as an agricultural commodity,
7 interest in coffee farms as part of the agricultural tourism
8 experience is growing. According to the Hawaii agricultural
9 statistics service, the value of the agricultural tourism
10 industry, with one hundred and twelve farms earning income from
11 agricultural tourism activities, was measured at \$38,800,000 in
12 2006. Coffee farmers participating in the agricultural tourism
13 industry have been able to increase coffee revenues by selling
14 directly to visitors to their farms, thus increasing the role
15 that coffee plays in agricultural tourism, which is a growing
16 part of the State's economy.

17 The legislature also finds that, in recent years, the
18 coffee berry borer, a small beetle that is harmful to coffee



1 crops worldwide, has infested coffee crops in the Kona, South
2 Kona, Ka'u, and Hilo regions. The infestation of coffee farms by
3 the coffee berry borer threatens to dismantle Hawaii's entire
4 coffee industry because of the nature and speed of the
5 infestations. Currently, it is estimated that over ninety per
6 cent of coffee farms on Hawaii Island are affected by the coffee
7 berry borer, and it is likely that every farm in the region will
8 be experiencing some degree of infestation soon. Infestations
9 and secondary effects of infestation have drastically reduced
10 the coffee yields and adversely impacted the quantity, quality,
11 and prices of Hawaiian coffee.

12 The legislature also finds that ongoing efforts to control
13 the damage to crops are critical, now that the coffee berry
14 borer is present in Hawaii. It can also be expected that the
15 coffee berry borer will eventually spread to other regions and
16 counties of Hawaii where coffee is farmed. Methods to combat
17 the coffee berry borer are used effectively in other coffee-
18 growing regions of the world. However, farmers in Hawaii need
19 to be educated about these methods and how to effectively apply
20 them. In addition, the costs of the required supplies and labor
21 to implement these methods can be financially prohibitive for
22 smaller coffee farms in the State.



1 The legislature further finds that because of Hawaii's
2 unique terrain and the preponderance of small-sized farms with
3 an aging population of farmers, the existing labor-intensive
4 methods of combating the coffee berry borer are more challenging
5 to implement in Hawaii than in other regions of the world. For
6 that reason, research is needed to develop new methods
7 appropriate for Hawaii's coffee farms, including those that
8 could reduce the cost of labor necessary to control the coffee
9 berry borer. The legislature finds that it is essential to take
10 immediate action to combat the coffee berry borer and to
11 mitigate the future impacts to other coffee-producing regions in
12 the State.

13 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
14 control and containment of the damage caused by the coffee berry
15 borer and for research to develop new methods of preventing and
16 treating infestations.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 as a grant
20 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the Coffee
21 Berry Borer Task Force organized as an Internal Revenue Code
22 Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to fund efforts to



1 control and contain the coffee berry borer infestation in
2 Hawaii. These funds may be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis
3 from either private or other government sources.

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

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Clarence S. Ikehiko

*Transmitted
4/22/14*

[Signature]



S.B. NO. 2290

Report Title:

Coffee Berry Borer Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Provides a grant to the coffee berry borer task force for the control of the coffee berry borer and for the containment of any damage caused by the coffee berry borer.

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