
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE MACADAMIA FELTED COCCID.

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

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

8 In March 2005, the macadamia felted coccid, *Eriococcus*
9 *ironsidei*, was discovered on macadamia nut trees in South Kona.
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
13 of Hawaii's college of tropical agriculture and human resources
14 were effective at controlling the spread of these insects.
15 After successful suppression of the original infestation in
16 2005, however, infestations of macadamia felted coccid have
17 recently been found in the Pahala area. Although insecticidal



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

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

- 12 (1) Investigate the role of tree canopy modification and
13 understory plants to encourage the presence of natural
14 enemies of the macadamia felted coccid;
- 15 (2) Analyze the potential of alternative pesticides;
- 16 (3) Determine the impact of macadamia felted coccid on
17 plant health;
- 18 (4) Determine action thresholds for macadamia felted
19 coccid management;
- 20 (5) Determine the phenology of macadamia felted coccid in
21 the field; and



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 moneys for research to develop new methods of preventing and
9 treating macadamia felted coccid infestations.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
13 department of agriculture, in cooperation with the college of
14 tropical agriculture and human resources at the University of
15 Hawaii at Manoa, to research and develop methods for the
16 prevention and treatment of macadamia felted coccid.

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

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
22 University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human



1 resources to research and develop methods for the prevention and
2 treatment of macadamia felted coccid, including new chemical
3 research on cultivating macadamia nuts, in cooperation with the
4 department of agriculture.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
6 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. The appropriations made pursuant to sections 2
8 and 3 of this Act shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal
9 biennium for which the appropriations are made; provided that
10 all moneys from the appropriations unencumbered as of June 30,
11 2021, shall lapse as of that date.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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H.B. NO. 1994

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.
Effective 7/1/2016.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

