
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the *Wasmannia*
2 *auropunctata*, known as the little fire ant, threatens native
3 biodiversity, alters tropical ecosystems, impairs human health,
4 impedes tourism, diminishes agricultural productivity, mars
5 horticulture sales, and accordingly ranks among the world's
6 worst invasive species. Human behaviors and habitats allow the
7 little fire ant to move quickly, disperse widely, grow to high
8 densities, and inhabit locations not otherwise possible.

9 Hawaii's tropical climate is ideally suited for little fire
10 ant establishment and growth. The little fire ant, by far one
11 of Hawaii's worst invasive pests, is not only bothersome to
12 residents, visitors, and farmers because of its nasty sting, it
13 also harms agriculture and natural areas by nurturing other
14 invasive pests such as aphids, mealybugs, soft scale insects,
15 and whiteflies.

16 The legislature further finds that when compared to the
17 other counties, the county of Hawaii has been affected the most



1 by the little fire ant. The University of Hawaii, the county of
2 Hawaii, and the department of agriculture must collaborate to
3 develop and implement effective measures to address the impacts
4 of the little fire ant in the county of Hawaii.

5 The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot pesticide
6 treatment coupon project within the department of agriculture
7 and appropriate funds for this purpose.

8 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall establish
9 and implement a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project. The
10 pilot project shall distribute coupons redeemable for
11 appropriate pesticides at suppliers or vendors within the county
12 of Hawaii at no cost to individuals who have reported and
13 verified to the department the presence of little fire ants on
14 their property within the county of Hawaii. Each coupon shall
15 be valid for a one-year supply of the department's recommended
16 treatment plan, including supplies and equipment purchased from
17 private companies; provided that the value of the coupon shall
18 not exceed the cost of a one-year supply of the department's
19 recommended treatment plan. The department shall provide each
20 individual with information on the proper usage and health and



1 safety precautions regarding the department's recommended
2 treatment plan.

3 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a
4 report on its progress in implementing the mandates of this Act,
5 its findings and recommendations on whether the pilot project
6 should be continued, terminated, or modified, and any proposed
7 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
8 to the convening of the regular session of 2018.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2018-2019 for the little fire ant pilot pesticide treatment
14 coupon project established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
16 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 28, 2081.

18



Report Title:

Little Fire Ant; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project for the county of Hawaii. Requires report to the Legislature on project implementation. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 1/28/2081. (SD1)

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