
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 ornamental ginger
2 (*Alpinia purpurata* (Vieillard)) is a popular plant that is
3 commonly used in tropical landscape designs. The plant's red
4 and pink floral brackets are often used as an ornamental cut
5 flower in floral arrangements seen everywhere from Waikiki hotel
6 lobbies to cemeteries across the State. Because of emerging
7 diseases, commercial production of ornamental ginger has been on
8 the decline for the past ten years on Oahu. Flower producers
9 brought their concerns to the attention of the University of
10 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, East
11 County Hawaii Farm Bureau, Hawaii Farm Bureau, and the
12 department of agriculture. Researchers and extension agents at
13 the college of tropical agriculture and human resources have
14 determined that there are three plant viruses affecting
15 commercial ginger production--banana bract mosaic virus, canna
16 yellow mottle virus, and banana streak virus on Oahu. There is
17 also at least one fungal pathogen, marasmus, that may contribute



1 to crop decline and plant death. Field tours of the affected
2 areas were made with members of the three agricultural agencies
3 in 2018. Department of agriculture pathologists detected the
4 presence of *Phomopsis sp.*, *Diaporthe sp.*, *Glomerella sp.*,
5 *Colletotrichum sp.*, *Phoma sp.*, *Cladosporium sp.*, *Fusarium spp.*,
6 *Cladobotryum sp.*, *Alternaria sp.*, *Acremonium sp.*, *Monilinia sp.*,
7 *Macrophoma sp.*, *Cephalosporium sp.*, and an unidentified
8 bacterium. Currently it is unknown which pathogen is the causal
9 agent of the new and devastating crop decline on ornamental
10 ginger in windward Oahu.

11 The legislature further finds that producers in the
12 affected areas are excavating their lands as they can no longer
13 economically produce ornamental ginger in these areas.
14 Neighboring farmers and off island clientele are concerned about
15 the spread of the viral, fungal, and unidentified bacterial
16 pathogens and asked the department of agriculture to quarantine
17 the movement of plants from these areas. In 2018, University of
18 Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources
19 personnel met with department of agriculture officials.
20 Collectively, the multi-agency task force agreed that more
21 diagnostic work and statewide survey information were warranted



1 before quarantine could be established by the department of
2 agriculture. Reports of crop decline, which originally started
3 in the Kahaluu area of Oahu, have spread to surrounding areas
4 such as Waiahole and Waikane valley. Without more research and
5 a multi-agency outreach approach, these pathogens could quickly
6 spread statewide and affect the profitability and long-term
7 sustainability of local ornamental and landscape production
8 industries.

9 The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for
10 statewide research of pathogens affecting ornamental ginger and
11 prevention of pathogen spread.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
16 2020-2021 for statewide research and prevention of the spread of
17 ornamental ginger pathogens.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university
19 of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources
20 for the purposes of this Act.

21



H.B. NO. 833

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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Report Title:

Ornamental Ginger; University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for research and prevention of the spread of ornamental ginger pathogens.

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