

JAN 17 2020

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 little fire ant
2 populations have been spreading quickly across the island of
3 Hawaii and are now widespread in West Hawaii. To address this
4 growing problem, in 2018, the legislature appropriated \$200,000
5 to the university of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and
6 human resources to establish a Hawaii Ant Lab West Hawaii office
7 and to increase capacity by funding an extension agent position
8 to staff the office.

9 The legislature further finds that since the opening of the
10 Hawaii Ant Lab West Hawaii office, the office has been inundated
11 with calls and requests for assistance from the West Hawaii
12 community. In the Hawaii Ant Lab's most recent quarterly report
13 for July 2019 to September 2019, the office reports having
14 received over two hundred fifty inquiries via phone, electronic
15 mail, mail, and walk-ins; received and examined one hundred
16 twenty-two ant samples, of which sixty-five were positively
17 identified to be little fire ants; conducted six farm



1 visit/training sessions; organized two educational community
2 presentations; hosted booths at community events; and provided
3 ongoing assistance to Kaloko-Honokohau National Park and
4 Kohanaiki resort with eradication efforts of little fire ants on
5 sixteen acres. The legislature recognizes that all of this work
6 falls upon a single employee.

7 Given the immense workload and the clear need for
8 additional staff hours at the Hawaii Ant Lab West Hawaii office,
9 it is evident that additional support staff is needed to meet
10 the responsibilities of this office.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
12 establish an additional extension agent position within the
13 Hawaii Ant Lab West Hawaii office.

14 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for one
17 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) extension agent position for the
18 Hawaii Ant Lab West Hawaii office.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
20 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:



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S.B. NO. 2737

Report Title:

Hawaii Ant Lab; West Hawaii Office; Extension Agent Position;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
extension agent position for the Hawaii Ant Lab West Hawaii
Office.

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