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# 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 two-lined  
2 spittlebug, *prosapia bicincta*, is an invasive insect that  
3 attacks key forage grasses used by the livestock ranching  
4 industry. In 2016, the State's first two-lined spittlebug  
5 infestation was discovered in Kailua-Kona, on the island of  
6 Hawaii, where the pest had damaged nearly two thousand acres of  
7 pasture land. Many high-quality pasture grasses, including  
8 *Bracharia*, *kikuyu*, *Pangola*, *St. Augustine*, and *Bermuda grass* are  
9 susceptible to *P.bicinta* attacks. During heavy infestations,  
10 dying plant tissues cascade from the leaves to the roots,  
11 ultimately causing whole plant death. The resulting damage does  
12 not allow for any regrowth, requiring ranchers to totally  
13 replant affected pastures.

14           The legislature further finds that two-lined spittlebug  
15 infestations have reduced the quality of some forage pastures in  
16 Hawaii by decreasing their nutritional value, palatability and  
17 productivity. Infestations of the pest also promote the



1 establishment of weeds and lower-quality foraging grasses.  
2 Monthly surveys carried out since 2017 on the island of Hawaii  
3 show that the pest is rapidly expanding its range and now covers  
4 more than two hundred and twenty-two square miles.

5       The legislature recognizes that livestock ranching is a  
6 highly productive and extremely valuable industry on all of  
7 Hawaii's major islands. The State's livestock industry has an  
8 estimated annual value of more than \$68,000,000, with over one  
9 hundred forty-two thousand beef cattle on more than one thousand  
10 three hundred ranches. Collectively, these ranches cover nearly  
11 twenty-five per cent of the State's land area.

12       The legislature also recognizes that the expanding  
13 livestock industry serves as an economic engine for the State  
14 and a major employer for local communities. This is  
15 particularly true on the island of Hawaii, where nearly sixty  
16 per cent of the State's cattle are raised. Additionally,  
17 seventy per cent of the beef cattle in Hawaii are raised on sod-  
18 forming grasses such as kikuyu and pangola. Consequently, two-  
19 lined spittlebugs threaten both job and food security in the  
20 State, making it crucial to address infestations and to restrict  
21 further spread.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
2 funds to mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug and to  
3 fund outreach, education, surveillance, treatment, and pest  
4 management protocols.

5           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
8 department of agriculture to mitigate and control the two-lined  
9 spittlebug. The moneys shall be used to fund recovery efforts,  
10 including but not limited to reducing the two-lined spittlebug  
11 population using insecticides, integrating weed management  
12 measures in affected rangelands, and reseeding pastures damaged  
13 by infestations.

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

16           SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a  
17 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
18 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
19 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2021. The  
20 report shall document the expenditure of funds and the progress  
21 of activities funded by this Act.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

HDOA; Invasive Species; Two-Lined Spittlebug; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its efforts to mitigate and control two-lined spittlebug infestations in the State. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

