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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 invasion of  
2   Hawai'i by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and  
3   other pests is the single greatest threat to the State's economy  
4   and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of the  
5   people of Hawai'i. Pests already cause millions of dollars in  
6   crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction  
7   of native forests, and the spread of disease, but many more  
8   harmful pests now threaten to invade Hawai'i and cause more  
9   damage. Stopping the influx of new pests and containing their  
10   spread are essential to the State's current and future well-  
11   being.

12           The legislature further recognizes the efforts made by the  
13   department of land and natural resources' division of forestry  
14   and wildlife, Maui branch, and the Maui invasive species  
15   committee to control high-threat invasive species throughout  
16   Maui county, especially efforts in east Maui to control miconia,  
17   a fast-growing weedy tree that can increase erosion and



1 landslides due to its shallow root system. It is estimated that  
2 approximately 37,000 acres throughout east Maui could contain  
3 miconia, which poses a threat to the local environment, cultural  
4 practices, and economy.

5 In addition to miconia, Maui is threatened by invasive  
6 species that enter the State through interstate commerce. For  
7 example, the transportation of plants has resulted in a  
8 significant and growing problem in the county of Maui with:

- 9 (1) Eleutherodactylus coqui, commonly known as "coqui  
10 frogs";
- 11 (2) Wasmannia auropunctata, commonly known as "little fire  
12 ants";
- 13 (3) Hypothenemus hampei, commonly known as "coffee borer  
14 beetles" or "coffee berry borers";
- 15 (4) Dynastinae, commonly known as "rhinoceros beetles";
- 16 (5) Angiostrongylus cantonensis, commonly known as "rat  
17 lungworm disease"; and
- 18 (6) Chital, commonly known as "axis deer."

19 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to establish  
20 invasive species technician positions for the department of land  
21 and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife in east



1 Maui to control invasive species from negatively impacting the  
2 environment and economy, and to appropriate funds to  
3 substantially reduce and eradicate the problem of invasive  
4 species throughout the county of Maui.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
9 2020-2021 to establish five permanent full-time equivalent (5.0  
10 FTE) invasive species technician positions at the department of  
11 land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife,  
12 Maui branch, to address invasive plants and animals in east  
13 Maui.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and  
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
20 year 2020-2021 for activities relating to the substantial



1 reduction and eradication of invasive species throughout the  
2 county of Maui pursuant to this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Division of Forestry and Wildlife; East Maui; Invasive Species; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Maui branch, for invasive species technician positions in east Maui to address invasive plants and animals. Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources to reduce and eradicate invasive species throughout the county of Maui. (SD1)

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