



GOV. MSG. NO. 1239

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 30, 2021, the following bill was signed into law:

HB237 HD2 SD2 CD1

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
ACT 137 (21)

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

ORIGINAL

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 30 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 137

H.B. NO.

237
H.D. 2
S.D. 2
C.D. 1

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*, are
9 susceptible to *P.bincincta* attacks. During heavy infestations,
10 dying plant tissue cascades from the leaves to the roots,
11 ultimately causing the death of the whole plant. The resulting
12 damage does not allow for any regrowth, requiring ranchers to
13 totally 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 on the island of Hawaii since 2017
3 show that the pest is rapidly expanding its range and now covers
4 more than two hundred seventy-five 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
9 one hundred forty-two thousand beef cattle on more than
10 one thousand three hundred ranches. Collectively, these ranches
11 cover nearly 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
16 sixty per cent of the State's cattle are raised. Additionally,
17 seventy per cent of the beef cattle in Hawaii are raised on
18 sod-forming grasses such as Kikuyu and Pangola. Consequently,
19 two-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 recovery efforts.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the funds received
5 by the State of Hawaii from the American Rescue Plan Act
6 of 2021, Public Law 117-2 (Section 9901), the sum of \$350,000,
7 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
8 2021-2022, to be used to mitigate and control the two-lined
9 spittlebug, including reducing the two-lined spittlebug
10 population by using insecticides, integrating weed management
11 measures in affected rangelands, and reseeding pastures damaged
12 by infestations.

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

15 SECTION 3. The department of agriculture shall submit a
16 report of its findings and recommendations regarding efforts to
17 mitigate and control the two-lined spittlebug and the recovery
18 of pasture lands, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the regular session of 2022. The report shall document the



1 expenditure of funds and the progress of activities funded by
2 this Act.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

APPROVED this 30 day of JUN , 2021



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 237, HD 2, SD 2, CD 1

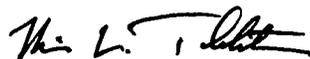
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 27, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives

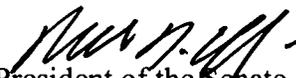


Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 27, 2021
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2021.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate