
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that invasive species are
2 an immense threat to Hawaii's ecosystem. Invasive species cause
3 not only ecological damage, but harm to the environment,
4 economy, and human health. Hawaii's agriculture, tourism,
5 fisheries, and other industries, as well as its native forests
6 and water supply, suffer economic loss and deterioration due to
7 the negative impacts of invasive species on the environment.

8 The legislature also finds that many invasive plants are
9 extremely aggressive and out compete native plant species.
10 Invasion of non-native tree species like the albizia, ironwood,
11 and autograph trees have overtaken other native species in
12 Hawaii's forests and landscape. Albizia, like many other
13 invasive plant species, grows rapidly. Particularly during
14 storms, these invasive trees negatively impact drainage
15 facilities and waterways. Erosion caused by these trees also
16 affects water quality and causes flooding.



1 According to the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, the
2 Hawaii island branch of the department of transportation
3 estimates that ninety per cent of all calls received about
4 fallen trees are for albizia. The legislature finds that while
5 the negative effects of albizia and other non-native tree
6 species are felt more in some communities than in others,
7 invasive species and their impact on the State's ecosystem,
8 economy, and health and safety are a statewide problem.
9 However, the legislature recognizes that the pervasiveness of
10 this problem is localized by county.

11 It is the intent of the legislature that the invasive
12 species flood control plan developed by this Act will serve as a
13 resource for future countywide or statewide flood control
14 management and implementation. To initiate further flood
15 control management, the department of land and natural resources
16 should first evaluate the impact of hazardous tree growth on
17 streams and waterways in Puna, Hawaii.

18 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
19 land and natural resources, in conjunction with the county of
20 Hawaii, to develop an invasive species flood control plan to



1 prevent, contain, and mitigate hazardous tree growth impacting
2 streams and waterways in Puna on the island of Hawaii.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
4 resources, in conjunction with the county of Hawaii, shall
5 develop an invasive species flood control plan to prevent,
6 contain, and mitigate hazardous tree growth impacting streams
7 and waterways in Puna on the island of Hawaii.

8 (b) The plan shall include identifying:

- 9 (1) Ways to better coordinate efforts and make use of
10 limited resources to prevent, contain, and mitigate
11 hazardous tree growth impacting streams and waterways,
12 including tree debris removal;
- 13 (2) High priority areas, objectives, and tasks to contain
14 and clear hazardous tree growth;
- 15 (3) Ways to restore native species and habitat conditions
16 in ecosystems that have been invaded;
- 17 (4) Flood control and other safety measures to address the
18 potential damage and damage caused to communities,
19 particularly during storms, by hazardous tree growth
20 impacting streams and waterways; and
- 21 (5) Funding for implementation of the plan.



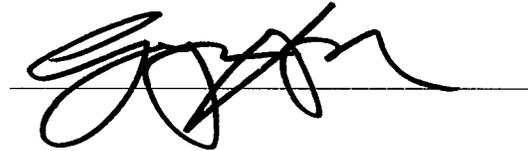
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1 (c) The department of land and natural resources, in
2 conjunction with the county of Hawaii, shall submit the plan,
3 including findings, recommendations, and any proposed
4 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
5 to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 26 2021



H.B. NO. 1137

Report Title:

DLNR; Hawaii County; Invasive Species Flood Control Plan; Puna

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources, in conjunction with the county of Hawaii, to develop an invasive species flood control plan to prevent, contain, and mitigate hazardous tree growth impacting streams and waterways in Puna. Requires submittal of the plan to the legislature prior to the 2022 regular session.

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