
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the two-lined
2 spittlebug is an invasive insect that attacks key forage grasses
3 used by the livestock ranching industry. In 2016, the State's
4 first two-lined spittlebug infestation was discovered in Kailua-
5 Kona on the island of Hawaii, where the pest damaged nearly two
6 thousand acres of pastureland. Grasses damaged by two-lined
7 spittlebug infestations are often completely destroyed by the
8 pests and must be replanted.

9 The legislature further finds that two-lined spittlebug
10 infestations have reduced the quality of forage pastures in
11 Hawaii by reducing their nutritional value, palatability, and
12 productivity. Infestations of the pest also promote the
13 establishment of weeds and lower-quality foraging grasses.
14 Monthly surveys conducted on the island of Hawaii since 2017
15 show that the two-lined spittlebug is rapidly expanding and, as
16 of September 2021, infests more than two hundred seventy-eight
17 square miles of land.



1 The legislature further finds that livestock ranching is a
2 highly productive and extremely valuable industry on all of
3 Hawaii's major islands. The State's livestock industry produces
4 an estimated annual value of more than \$68,000,000, with over
5 one hundred forty-two thousand beef cattle on more than one
6 thousand three hundred ranches. Collectively, these ranches
7 cover more than twenty per cent of the State's land area.

8 The legislature further finds that the expanding livestock
9 industry serves as an economic engine for the State and is a
10 major employer for local communities. This is particularly true
11 on the island of Hawaii, where nearly sixty per cent of the
12 State's cattle are raised. Additionally, seventy per cent of
13 all beef cattle in Hawaii are raised on sod-forming grasses,
14 such as kikuyu and pangola. Consequently, two-lined spittlebugs
15 threaten jobs and food security in the State, making it crucial
16 to address infestation and restrict further spread.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
18 funds to mitigate and control the two-lined spittle bug and to
19 fund recovery efforts.



1 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture shall submit a
2 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
3 convening of the regular session of 2023. The report shall:

- 4 (1) Document the expenditure of moneys appropriated by
5 this Act;
6 (2) Discuss the progress of activities to mitigate and
7 control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug; and
8 (3) Provide any findings and recommendations, including
9 any proposed legislation.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
13 department of agriculture to mitigate and control infestations
14 of the two-lined spittlebug and undertake recovery efforts for
15 lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug. The department shall
16 take measures, including the use of insecticides, weed
17 management, and reseedling pastures, as necessary to reduce the
18 population of two-lined spittlebugs and assist in recovery
19 efforts.



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

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



Report Title:

Invasive Species; Control and Mitigation; Two-Lined Spittlebug;
Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for the control and mitigation of the two-lined spittlebug and for recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug. Requires a report to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050.
(SD1)

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