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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that rapid ohia death has  
2 killed over a million ohia trees on Hawaii island and threatens  
3 forests on all of the main Hawaiian islands. Ohia is the  
4 State's most common tree, comprising eighty per cent of  
5 remaining native forests. Ohia trees provide important habitats  
6 for other plants and animals and gather precipitation to  
7 recharge island aquifers. Ohia forests have been treasured by  
8 native Hawaiians for centuries for many practical uses and for  
9 art, including hula, where the tree is the kinolau of important  
10 Hawaiian gods. The widespread loss of ohia would be  
11 catastrophic for Hawaii's culture and native ecosystems. It  
12 would reduce the municipal and agricultural water supplies and  
13 eliminate important cultural ties to the forest.

14           The legislature further finds that rapid ohia death is  
15 caused by two recently arrived fungi, *Ceratocystis lukuohia* and  
16 *Ceratocystis huliohia*. *C. lukuohia*, the more aggressive  
17 species, has caused more than ninety per cent of the rapid ohia



1 death on Hawaii island. Both species have been found on Kauai  
2 and are now found throughout the island. Only *C. huliohia* has  
3 been detected on Oahu, while a single detection of *C. huliohia*  
4 on Maui was destroyed and no further detections have been made  
5 on the islands making up Maui Nui.

6 The legislature finds that these two fungi are released  
7 from dead trees into the environment by boring beetles. The  
8 non-native beetles bore into the wood, releasing frass and dust  
9 into the environment where the frass and dust can be transported  
10 by wind or by humans and animals. Rapid ohia death attacks  
11 trees where they have wounds, which may be caused by hooved  
12 animals. Researchers found ohia mortality from rapid ohia death  
13 up to sixty-nine times higher in areas with hooved animals than  
14 in neighboring fenced areas without animals. To manage this  
15 disease effectively, additional research is needed to better  
16 understand the role of beetles, wind events, and hooved animals  
17 in spreading the disease.

18 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
19 department of land and natural resources to study and combat  
20 rapid ohia death in the State.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be  
4 allocated as follows:

5 (1) \$ for a survey of and the response to rapid  
6 ohia death;

7 (2) \$ for applied research on management tools;

8 (3) \$ for animal removal from fenced areas on  
9 Hawaii island; and

10 (4) \$ for public outreach on how to prevent  
11 disease spread.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
13 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

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



H.B. NO. 1769  
H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Rapid Ohia Death; DLNR; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources to study and combat rapid ohia death in the State. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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