

JAN 22 2021

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's tropical  
2 flower industry forms an important part of both the agricultural  
3 sector of the economy and the wider economy as well. Residents  
4 and businesses in the State rely on local tropical flowers and  
5 foliage grown by local farmers to beautify their homes,  
6 businesses, restaurants, and hotels. Local flowers are also  
7 often given as gifts to our loved ones.

8           However, the legislature also finds that there is concern  
9 within the State's agricultural community that certain diseases  
10 that affect tropical flowers and foliage grown in the State have  
11 caused a decline in this industry. When the local supply of  
12 tropical flowers and foliage cannot meet local needs, tropical  
13 flowers and foliage must be imported from foreign countries,  
14 which in turn carries an elevated risk of inadvertently  
15 introducing other dangerous insects and diseases to the State's  
16 farms and plant nurseries. For example, in 2014, a new fungal  
17 pathogen known as rapid ohia death was identified on Hawaii



1 Island. This deadly disease has decimated our native forests.  
2 The legislature further finds that there are other plant  
3 diseases and insects even more lethal and faster spreading than  
4 rapid ohia death that could potentially be introduced into the  
5 State, such as rust fungal disease. It is critical to prevent  
6 the introduction of these insects and diseases into the State to  
7 protect our critical agriculture industry.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to minimize the  
9 risk of disease and pest introduction in the State by requiring  
10 the department of agriculture to collaborate with agricultural  
11 growers and researchers to develop and implement a program to  
12 safely distribute disease- and insect-free tropical plant  
13 materials to Hawaii farmers.

14 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
16 designated and to read as follows:

17 "§141- Tropical flower and foliage; plant material  
18 distribution program; established. (a) The department of  
19 agriculture shall develop and implement a program that:

20 (1) Obtains tropical plant materials from sources within  
21 the State and outside of the State;



1       (2) Diagnostically screens the tropical plant materials to  
2       ensure the materials are free of harmful insects and  
3       diseases;

4       (3) Propagates these disease- and insect-free tropical  
5       plant materials; and

6       (4) Distributes the plant materials to Hawaii farmers.

7       (b) In developing the program required by this section,  
8 the department of agriculture shall consult with:

9       (1) Tropical flower and foliage growers; and

10       (2) Agricultural research entities.

11       (c) The department of agriculture may adopt rules pursuant  
12 to chapter 91 to effectuate the purposes of this section."

13       SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2022-2023 to develop and implement the tropical flower and  
18 foliage plant material distribution program established by  
19 section 2 of this Act.

20       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
21 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.



# S.B. NO. 479

1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 479

**Report Title:**

HDOA; Tropical Flowers and Foliage; Plant Materials;  
Distribution Program; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with agricultural growers and researchers to develop and implement a program to safely distribute disease- and insect-free tropical plant materials to Hawaii farmers. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

