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# 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 little fire ants are  
2 an invasive species that are spreading rapidly throughout the  
3 State. Little fire ants have a painful sting that can cause  
4 long-lasting itchy rashes or welts and also irritate, and  
5 sometimes blind, household pets. Additionally, these pests  
6 cause significant disruption and economic damage to Hawaii.

7           The legislature further finds that the Hawaii ant lab was  
8 established in 2009 to address the overwhelming need for  
9 research, advice, and technical assistance to address and  
10 eradicate rapidly spreading little fire ant infestations. The  
11 Hawaii invasive species council and Hawaii department of  
12 agriculture provided the majority of funding for the Hawaii ant  
13 lab. However, that funding ceased due to budget cuts and the  
14 repeal of the agricultural development and food security special  
15 fund. The reduction in funding has led to staff having to  
16 reduce working hours for parts of 2021 and 2022. While the  
17 legislature made a one-time appropriation of \$500,000 in 2022 to



1 address the funding shortfall and help the Hawaii ant lab retain  
2 its staff, the funding for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal  
3 years is uncertain.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to support  
5 the Hawaii ant lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants  
6 in the State.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2024-2025 for LNR402, native resources and fire protection  
12 program, to support the Hawaii ant lab in mitigating the effects  
13 of little fire ants in the State.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

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



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Hawaii Ant Lab; Little Fire Ant; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support the Hawaii Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State. Effective 7/1/2050.  
(SD2)

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

