
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO 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
5 Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii, where the pest damaged
6 nearly two thousand acres of pastureland. Grasses damaged by
7 two-lined spittlebug infestations are often completely destroyed
8 by the 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 more
5 than 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 infestations and restrict their further spread.

17 The legislature further finds that feral chickens,
18 roosters, and pigs have become a persistent nuisance,
19 particularly in suburban and urban residential
20 communities. These feral animals wander into yards and gardens,
21 digging up plants, damaging food crops, and jeopardizing native



1 plants and resources, including endangered and threatened
2 species; leave droppings that create unsanitary conditions that
3 become a health concern; and have led to numerous noise and odor
4 complaints by residents. The noticeable increase in the number
5 of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs also creates a road hazard
6 for drivers who must suddenly stop or swerve to avoid them.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
8 funds to the department of agriculture to:

9 (1) Mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined
10 spittlebug and undertake recovery efforts for lands
11 damaged by the two-lined spittlebug; and

12 (2) Establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and
13 control the significant increase in the population of
14 feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the
15 State.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall submit
17 an interim report on its control and mitigation of the two-lined
18 spittlebug and recovery efforts for lands damaged by the
19 two-lined spittlebug to the legislature no later than twenty
20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2024; and
21 shall submit a final report on the foregoing matters to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 the regular session of 2026. The reports shall:

3 (1) Document the expenditure of moneys appropriated by
4 this Act;

5 (2) Discuss the progress of activities to mitigate and
6 control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug; and

7 (3) Provide any relevant findings and recommendations,
8 including any proposed legislation.

9 (b) The department of agriculture shall establish a
10 five-year pilot program to provide traps to members of the
11 public to mitigate and control the significant increase in the
12 population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the
13 State; and submit an interim report regarding the pilot program
14 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
15 convening of the regular session of 2026, and a final report to
16 the legislature no later than twenty days prior the convening of
17 the regular session of 2028. The reports shall include, at a
18 minimum, the department's:

19 (1) Findings and recommendations relating to the five-year
20 pilot program, including any proposed legislation; and



1 (2) Recommendation on whether the five-year pilot program
2 should be extended.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 for the department of agriculture to:

8 (1) Mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined
9 spittlebug and undertake recovery efforts for lands
10 damaged by the two-lined spittlebug;

11 (2) Take measures, including the use of insecticides, weed
12 management, and reseeding pastures, as necessary to
13 reduce the population of two-lined spittlebugs and
14 assist in recovery efforts; and

15 (3) Establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and
16 control the significant increase in the population of
17 feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the
18 State; provided that the pilot program shall include
19 the provision of traps free-of-charge to members of
20 the public to capture the feral animals; collection of
21 traps containing the captured feral animals; and



1 return of empty traps to the member of the public by
2 the department of agriculture.

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

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



Report Title:

Invasive Species; Control and Mitigation; Two-Lined Spittlebug;
Feral Chickens, Roosters, and Pigs; Five-Year Pilot Program;
Department of Agriculture; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug, and establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens, roosters, and pigs throughout the State. Requires reports to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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