STAND. COM. REP. NO.



Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 2.4 ' 2023

RE: S.B. No. 1552

S.D. 2 H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2023 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred S.B. No. 1552, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate 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.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council, Hawaii Pest Control Association, Daifukuji Soto Mission, and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that little fire ants are an invasive species that are spreading rapidly throughout the State. Your Committee further finds that the Hawaii Ant Lab was established in 2009 to address the overwhelming need for research, advice, and technical assistance to address and eradicate rapidly spreading little fire ant infestations. However, reductions in funding for the Hawaii Ant Lab over the years have significantly impacted the Hawaii Ant Lab's research and effectiveness. This measure

provides additional support to the Hawaii Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1552, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1552, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair

## State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSLR 1549

## Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 1552 SD2	Committee Referral: AGR, FIN	Date:	3/22/20	23
☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:  Pass, unamended (as is)  Pass, with amendments (HD)  Hold  Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GATES, Cedric Asuega (C)	$\checkmark$			
2. KAHALOA, Kirstin (VC)				
3. COCHRAN, Elle				
J. COCHRAIN, Enc	V			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.	<b>V</b>			
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	V			TATIONS OF STREET
6. WOODSON, Justin H.				
7. WARD, Gene				
,				
TOTAL (7) /	7			
The recommendation is: D Adopted D Not Adopted				
If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				