
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 Hawaii's geographic
2 location renders the State susceptible to invasive species that
3 negatively impact the unique and natural biodiversity of the
4 islands. The legislature supports the Hawaii invasive species
5 council, which was established in 2003 to provide policy-level
6 direction, coordination, and planning among state departments,
7 federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for
8 the control and eradication of harmful invasive species
9 infestations throughout the State. The Hawaii invasive species
10 council fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing
11 plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive
12 species prevention, control, research, and stakeholder outreach.

13 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii invasive
14 species council has effectively mitigated non-indigenous fungal
15 pathogens introduced to Hawaii--specifically, the fungal
16 pathogen that causes rapid ohia death, which was first
17 identified on the island of Hawaii in 2014. In 2015, the Hawaii



1 invasive species council awarded funds to the University of
2 Hawaii to support a post-doctoral researcher to assist an
3 interagency team of scientists in the Hilo area in studying how
4 the disease is transmitted and finding potential treatment
5 options. Additionally, the legislature finds that the
6 interagency effort spearheaded by the Hawaii invasive species
7 council provided a comprehensive response to rapid ohia death
8 that produced hundreds of volunteers statewide who were educated
9 on collecting ohia seeds to further conserve the species.

10 More recently, in 2020, the fungal pathogen that causes
11 coffee leaf rust was discovered for the first time in the United
12 States on the islands of Hawaii and Maui. The legislature finds
13 that coffee leaf rust causes severe defoliation that greatly
14 reduces the photosynthetic capacity of coffee plants. Long-term
15 effects of coffee leaf rust may include dieback, which has a
16 significant impact on the following year's coffee yield and
17 causes an estimated thirty per cent to eighty per cent loss if
18 not properly treated. The legislature further finds that
19 efforts to control coffee leaf rust are critical to sustaining
20 the coffee industry--which nets over \$54,300,000 in revenue
21 annually--and the State must continue to support these efforts.



Report Title:

Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Administrative Rules; Coffee Leaf Rust

Description:

Requires the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to classify the fungal pathogen that causes coffee leaf rust as an invasive species in its administrative rules and to direct available funding for mitigation efforts, research, and prevention or control actions for coffee leaf rust. Effective 7/1/2050.
(SD1)

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