
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii invasive
2 species council have declared invasive species to be the single
3 greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and
4 the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors. The
5 legislature finds that these threats are becoming more
6 challenging because of environmental and financial factors, and
7 acting now will prevent future, costlier problems.

8 The legislature further finds that invasive species include
9 animals, plants, and pathogens found both on land and in the
10 ocean waters. Notable invasive species are as follows: little
11 fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, coqui frog, albizia and
12 strawberry guava trees, unmanaged grasses, brown tree snake, and
13 stony coral tissue loss disease that could kill all coral reef
14 species if introduced in Hawaii.

15 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii invasive
16 species council receives an annual net funding allocation of
17 approximately \$5,750,000, of which approximately ninety per cent



1 is redirected towards its competitive grant program. The
2 remaining modest amount of funding is for the Hawaii invasive
3 species council's operating expenses, overhead, and budget and
4 finance restriction. This funding allocation has not increased
5 in four years and covers less than fifty per cent of the total
6 amount of competitive grant proposals received. The need for
7 more funding is exacerbated by inflation, the high cost of doing
8 business in the State, and the need to attract and retain
9 qualified staff with competitive cost-of-living adjustments. As
10 a result, state funds are largely used only as bridge funding to
11 simply keep these strategic programs viable. Partner agencies
12 are largely limited to focusing on "invasive species
13 containment" rather than "eradication".

14 The purpose of this Act is to increase appropriated funds
15 to the Hawaii invasive species council to ensure its viability
16 to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

17 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
18 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
19 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
20 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
21 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure



1 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
2 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
3 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
4 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
5 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
6 ceiling are that:

- 7 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
8 serve the public interest; and
- 9 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
10 addressed by this Act.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,250,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
14 native resources and fire protection program and the Hawaii
15 invasive species council to address the invasive species crisis.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: Michelle E. Lounsbury

JAN 19 2024



H.B. NO. 2104

Report Title:

HISC; Viability Funding; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to support the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to ensure its long-term viability and prevent future problems. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

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