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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 the coconut  
2 rhinoceros beetle can have devastating impacts on palm species  
3 that are foundational to the State's agricultural economy,  
4 cultural heritage, and ecosystems. The legislature further  
5 finds that the use of fine meshed nets can be an effective means  
6 of preventing adult coconut rhinoceros beetles from accessing  
7 vulnerable plants, effectively mitigating their impact on local  
8 plants and the environment. Additionally, fine mesh netting,  
9 meant for non-aquatic usage, is a regulated device for pest  
10 control under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and  
11 Rodenticide Act, as amended.

12           The purpose of this Act is to allow for the use of fine  
13 meshed nets for the protection of plants against invasive  
14 species, under certain conditions.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
17 and to read as follows:



1        "§141-        Fine meshed nets; invasive species; permissible;  
2 rules.   (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, fine  
3 meshed nets may be used for the protection of plants against  
4 invasive species, as determined by the department of  
5 agriculture; provided that the fine meshed nets shall be applied  
6 in a manner that is unlikely to entangle birds, become dislodged  
7 and enter water, or entangle or disturb native and beneficial  
8 animals, including but not limited to pollinators, ladybugs or  
9 lady beetles, and net-winged insects.

10        (b) The department of agriculture shall adopt rules in  
11 accordance with chapter 91 to implement this section, including  
12 but not limited to establishing requirements related to filament  
13 diameter, color, and the inclusion of visual cues to prevent  
14 non-targeted entanglement and prohibiting the use of mist net  
15 material that is used for bird work."

16        SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17        SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 2546  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Invasive Species; Fine Meshed Nets; Permissible; Rules

**Description:**

Allows for the use of fine meshed nets for the protection of plants against invasive species, under certain conditions.

(CD1)

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