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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 presence of  
2 various invasive species, in particular little fire ants, pose a  
3 significant threat to public safety, environmental stability,  
4 economic vitality, and community health in Hawaii. Aggressive  
5 and harmful invasive species such as little fire ants are  
6 spreading rapidly throughout the State and inflict painful  
7 stings, causing adverse reactions in humans and animals. These  
8 stings can cause intense burning sensations, painful itchy  
9 welts, and potential blindness in humans, livestock, and pets if  
10 stung repeatedly on the face.

11           The legislature additionally finds that effective  
12 management and eradication of invasive species, specifically  
13 little fire ants, is not only essential to preserving Hawaii's  
14 local agriculture industry and tourism economy, but it also  
15 serves to protect the local lifestyle or customs of residents.  
16 Everyday activities like picking flowers, making lei, sharing  
17 fruit, or putting towels on the beach can become seriously



1 threatened if the populations of invasive species such as little  
2 fire ants are not sufficiently managed.

3       The legislature further finds that transparency in property  
4 transactions and residential areas is essential to enable  
5 informed decision-making by prospective buyers, tenants, and  
6 neighboring residents. Therefore, in the interest of the State,  
7 it is imperative to implement measures that compel landowners to  
8 disclose the existence of known invasive species, particularly  
9 little fire ants, on their properties when selling their  
10 properties. This proactive approach is a simple and cost  
11 neutral mechanism to help lay the foundation to controlling and  
12 mitigating the spread of known populations of invasive species.

13       The purpose of this Act is to require landowners to  
14 disclose the presence of little fire ants on their property when  
15 selling their property.

16       SECTION 2. Chapter 508D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

19       "§508D-       Disclosure of little fire ants. In addition to  
20 any disclosure of information required by this chapter, a seller



1 shall disclose the presence of little fire ants on the real  
2 property being offered for sale."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

**NAB**

JAN 24 2024



# H.B. NO. 2782

**Report Title:**

Mandatory Seller Disclosures; Real Estate; Invasive Species;  
Little Fire Ants

**Description:**

Requires that the presence of little fire ants be disclosed as part of the mandatory seller disclosures in real estate transactions.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

