
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A STUDY
EVALUATING THE FEASIBILITY OF USING MYCOPESTICIDES AS A
METHOD TO CONTROL WASMANNIA AUROPUNCTATA.

1 WHEREAS, the presence of *Wasmannia auropunctata*, commonly
2 known as little fire ants, an invasive species native to South
3 America, poses a significant threat to public safety,
4 environmental stability, and community health; and

5

6 WHEREAS, these aggressive and harmful ants are spreading
7 rapidly throughout the Hawaiian Islands, and their stings can
8 cause intense burning sensations, painful itchy welts, and
9 adverse health reactions, including blindness, in humans,
10 animals, and especially children; and

11

12 WHEREAS, mycopesticides, which include mycoinsecticides,
13 mycofungicides, mycoherbicides, and nematophagous fungi, are
14 products with active ingredients consisting of fungal cells,
15 such as spores or hyphae, that produce toxins that eventually
16 kill their host species, whether they are insects, other fungi,
17 weeds, or nematodes; and

18

19 WHEREAS, various mycopesticides have been used as early as
20 approximately 1880 as biocontrol agents of agricultural pests
21 and offer a more environmentally friendly, species-specific
22 alternative to broad-spectrum, conventional pesticides; and

23

24 WHEREAS, mycopesticides require lower research and
25 development costs compared to conventional pesticides and pose
26 reduced risks to humans and animals; and

27

28 WHEREAS, mycopesticides are very species-specific, and the
29 scientific literature has not yet shown which species of fungus
30 could be effective against *Wasmannia auropunctata*; and

31



1 WHEREAS, any potential negative side effects of a
2 mycopesticide on the Native Hawaiian ecosystem should be
3 thoroughly investigated before the mycopesticide is introduced;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii is uniquely positioned to
7 study this issue as Hawaii's only R1 Research University; now,
8 therefore,

9
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2024, that the University of Hawaii is requested to
13 conduct a study evaluating the feasibility of using
14 mycopesticides as a method to control *Wasmannia auropunctata*;
15 and

16
17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this study is requested to
18 determine which species of mycopesticides, if any, could be used
19 as a method to control *Wasmannia auropunctata* and, if a species
20 is found, to determine what potential:

21
22 (1) Advantages, if any, this mycopesticide could have
23 compared to current methods of control, including but
24 not limited to factors related to cost, human health,
25 and environmental health; and

26
27 (2) Negative impacts, if any, this mycopesticide could
28 have if released into Hawaii's ecosystem; and

29
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
31 requested to submit a report of its findings and
32 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
33 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
34 the Regular Session of 2025; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the University of
38 Hawaii; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; and Research
39 Manager of the Hawaii Ant Lab.

40
41
42



H.R. NO. 147

OFFERED BY: NMB

MAR 08 2024

