

JAN 17 2025

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 was established in 2003 to provide policy level
3 direction, coordination, and planning among federal agencies,
4 state departments, and international and local initiatives for
5 the control and eradication of harmful invasive species
6 infestations throughout the State and to prevent the
7 introduction of other potentially harmful invasive species.
8 However, the initiatives of the Hawaii invasive species council
9 remain underfunded.

10 The legislature further finds that invasive species are the
11 single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment,
12 food security, and local communities. Additional funding for
13 the Hawaii invasive species council would assist in the
14 establishment of species-specific response teams on each island
15 and increase the capacity of on-the-ground response efforts for
16 high-impact pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, and



1 coconut rhinoceros beetles that continue to spread throughout
2 the State.

3 The legislature also finds that, with adequate funding,
4 Maui has drastically reduced and nearly eradicated a little fire
5 ant infestation that encompassed one hundred forty-two acres by
6 utilizing innovative new control tools and techniques.
7 Additional funding for the Hawaii invasive species council would
8 also support research projects at the university of Hawaii and
9 other research institutions to continue to develop new tools and
10 technology for invasive species detection, prevention, and
11 management.

12 To align with the special purpose of the Hawaii invasive
13 species council, a portion of the additional funding should also
14 be reserved to support rapid response efforts to new pest
15 incursions.

16 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
17 funds to the Hawaii invasive species council to support its
18 initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the
19 State.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,250,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2026-2027 to the Hawaii invasive species council to support its
4 initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the
5 State.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

9

INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 1190

Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to support its initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

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