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# 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 created in response to the need for  
3 statewide coordination and direction in addressing invasive  
4 species in 2003. Hawaii was one of the first states to create  
5 an invasive species council through state law. The council's  
6 work is critical to support on-the-ground response efforts to  
7 address some of the State's worst pests, such as the little fire  
8 ant, coqui frog, and fungi that cause rapid ohia death, and to  
9 prevent the introduction of new pests, such as the africanized  
10 bee and red imported fire ant, through its ability to coordinate  
11 with and across multiple agencies and organizations.

12       The legislature further finds that effective biosecurity at  
13 all levels requires a collective effort among state, federal,  
14 and other partner organizations. The Hawaii invasive species  
15 council's allocation of funding every year is essential to  
16 supporting partner organizations whose sole mission is to  
17 control existing target pests in the State, the development of



1 innovative tools and technologies, and continued campaigns to  
2 increase community awareness and engagement. Organizations and  
3 work funded through the Hawaii invasive species council are a  
4 part of the State's overall biosecurity program.

5 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii invasive  
6 species council receives an annual net funding allocation of  
7 approximately \$5,750,000, of which approximately ninety per cent  
8 is redirected towards its competitive grant program. The  
9 remaining modest amount of funding is for the Hawaii invasive  
10 species council's operating expenses, overhead, and budget and  
11 finance restriction. This funding allocation has not increased  
12 in four years and covers less than fifty per cent of the total  
13 amount of competitive grant proposals received. The need for  
14 more funding is exacerbated by inflation, the high cost of doing  
15 business in the State, and the need to attract and retain  
16 qualified staff with competitive cost-of-living adjustments. As  
17 a result, state funds are largely used only as bridge funding to  
18 simply keep these strategic programs viable. Partner agencies  
19 are largely limited to focusing on "invasive species  
20 containment" rather than their "eradication".



1       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
2 native resources and fire protection program and Hawaii invasive  
3 species council to continue to control and eradicate invasive  
4 species in the State.

5       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$               or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2026-2027 for the native resources and fire protection  
10 program and Hawaii invasive species council to address the  
11 invasive species crisis.

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

14       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

HISC; Native Resources and Fire Protection Program; Viability  
Funding; Invasive Species; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Native Resources and Fire Protection  
Program and Hawaii Invasive Species Council to ensure their  
long-term viability and continue to control and eradicate  
invasive species in the State. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

