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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 *Acalolepta*  
2   *aesthetica*, or Queensland longhorn beetle, is native to  
3   Australia, was initially found in Hawaii in 2009, and was first  
4   associated with a local plant in 2014 when it was found on an  
5   ‘ulu in Puna. Since then, the Queensland longhorn beetle's known  
6   host range has expanded to nearly twenty known host species in  
7   the State and has spread across east Hawaii Island, now found as  
8   far north as Honoka‘a.

9       The legislature further finds that the Queensland longhorn  
10   beetle targets many agriculturally important plants such as ‘ulu,  
11   cacao, avocado, and citrus, and culturally significant trees  
12   like kukui. The adult beetles lay their eggs on the trunk of  
13   the tree, and the larvae hatch and bore into the tree to remain  
14   for several months, causing significant damage as they grow and  
15   bore through. The beetles then complete their life cycle by  
16   pupating within the tree and emerging as an adult, leaving a



1 penny-sized exit hole in the tree, which in many cases kills the  
2 tree.

3 The legislature believes that if populations of the  
4 Queensland longhorn beetle are left unchecked, the beetles will  
5 spread statewide and cause significant losses in crops, the  
6 extinction of native species, and the destruction of native  
7 forests.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
9 funds to the university of Hawaii to conduct a study on  
10 effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the  
11 Queensland longhorn beetle.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$138,443 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the  
15 university of Hawaii to conduct a study on effective treatment  
16 methods to reduce populations of the Queensland longhorn beetle.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
18 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

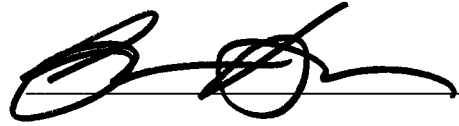
19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



H.B. NO. 2139

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 26 2026



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Invasive Species; Queensland Longhorn Beetle; Study; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii to conduct a study on effective treatment methods to reduce populations of the Queensland Longhorn Beetle.

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

