
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:



JAN 26 2026



H.B. NO. 2139

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.

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