

JAN 22 2026

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 invasive species,
2 including agricultural pests, are a serious problem in the
3 State. The legislature further finds that state-leased
4 agricultural lands managed by the department of agriculture and
5 biosecurity can be infested with invasive species that can
6 spread to surrounding areas. Currently, the department of
7 agriculture and biosecurity does not have a mechanism to require
8 lessees to grant the department access to the leased land to
9 survey for or control invasive species, or to require lessees to
10 control particularly harmful invasive species on their leased
11 parcels.

12 The legislature further finds that a recent example of the
13 importance of addressing this gap is the detection of coconut
14 rhinoceros beetle (CRB) in an agricultural park on Hawaii island
15 that is managed by the department of agriculture and
16 biosecurity. The department sought and relied on gaining access
17 permission from each lessee, which led to a patchwork of



1 inspected and treated areas, while the CRB continued to spread
2 from the agricultural park.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ensure that the
4 department of agriculture and biosecurity has authority to:

5 (1) Access property that it leases to timely survey for
6 and control invasive species; and
7 (2) Require its lessees to control specific invasive
8 species on their leased parcels.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
11 designated and to read as follows:

12 "S141- Lease terms; invasive species. (a)

13 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, each lease that the

14 department of agriculture and biosecurity enters into, renews,

15 or extends after the effective date of Act , Session Laws of

16 Hawaii 2026, shall include provisions stating that the

17 department may:

18 (1) Enter the leased premises at any time to survey for,
19 identify, investigate, control, or eradicate invasive
20 species;



1 (2) Order or otherwise require the lessee to maintain
2 control of any invasive species on the leased
3 premises; and
4 (3) Terminate the lease if the lessee refuses the
5 department entry or is found in violation of any
6 applicable law, rule, order, or request relating to
7 the control or eradication of invasive species.
8 (b) Access granted by this section shall be subject to the
9 notice requirements and limitations on liability established in
10 section 141-3.6.
11 (c) For the purposes of this section, "invasive species"
12 means any taxon that is a pest as defined in section 150A-2, or
13 that is a prohibited, restricted, or unlisted species pursuant
14 to chapter 150A or any rule adopted under that chapter and that
15 is present in violation of the requirements of that chapter or
16 rule."
17 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
19 begun before its effective date.
20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: John



S.B. NO. 2489

Report Title:

DAB; Invasive Species; Lease Provisions

Description:

Requires each lease that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity enters into, renews, or extends to include provisions stating that the Department may: (1) enter the leased premises; (2) order or otherwise require the lessee to maintain control of any invasive species on the leased premises; and (3) terminate the lease for refusal or violation.

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

