
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Molokai remains free
2 from many invasive species that are present elsewhere in the
3 State, including but not limited to the coconut rhinoceros
4 beetle, little fire ant, coqui frog, fungi causing rapid 'ōhi'a
5 death, and miconia. Preventing the establishment of these
6 invasive species on Molokai is critical to protecting the
7 island's natural environment, agricultural economy, cultural
8 resources, and community well-being.

9 The legislature further finds that in 2025, members of the
10 Molokai community petitioned the department of agriculture and
11 biosecurity to adopt a temporary rule prohibiting the movement
12 of coconut rhinoceros beetle host materials and other high-risk
13 imported goods to Molokai in order to maximize prevention.

14 The legislature also finds that in 2025, the coconut
15 rhinoceros beetle was introduced to Lāna'i in plants that were
16 previously inspected by the department of agriculture and
17 biosecurity. Fortunately, because Lāna'i has a private



1 quarantine facility, facility staff were able to detect and
2 prevent the beetle from being released into the environment,
3 demonstrating that secondary inspection of an interisland
4 transport of plants or plant material upon arrival can support
5 an effective biosecurity system.

6 The legislature additionally finds that Molokai does not
7 have a plant and plant material quarantine or inspection
8 facility and does not have any dedicated inspection staff
9 located on island, potentially leaving Molokai extremely
10 vulnerable to the introduction of invasive species, despite the
11 fact that Molokai is one of the most subsistence-committed
12 islands in the Hawaiian archipelago.

13 The legislature further finds that, as an island state,
14 Hawaii has the opportunity to protect non-invaded islands from
15 invasive species present in other areas of the State and allow
16 them to serve as living repositories for native species and
17 ecosystems being decimated elsewhere.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to strengthen
19 biosecurity protections for Molokai by:

20 (1) Establishing a Molokai biosecurity advisory board;



1 (2) Requiring the advisory board to advise the department
2 of agriculture and biosecurity in the development of a
3 Molokai biosecurity plan to prevent the spread of
4 invasive species found elsewhere in the State to the
5 island of Molokai;

6 (3) Authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds
7 and appropriating funds for a new plant, plant
8 materials, livestock, and other domestic animals
9 quarantine facility on the island of Molokai; and

10 (4) Appropriating funds.

11 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Molokai biosecurity
12 advisory board within the department of agriculture and
13 biosecurity for administrative purposes. The advisory board
14 shall consist of seven members who are residents of Molokai;
15 provided that:

16 (1) The members shall be appointed by the governor as
17 provided in section 26-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
18 and

19 (2) The members shall include:

20 (A) Homesteaders;

21 (B) Non-homesteaders; and



1 (C) Representatives from other organizations and
2 individuals from Molokai's farming community.

3 (b) The advisory board shall advise the department of
4 agriculture and biosecurity in its development of:

5 (1) A Molokai biosecurity plan to prevent the spread of
6 invasive species to the island of Molokai that are not
7 currently present on Molokai but are present elsewhere
8 in the State; and

9 (2) A quarantine facility on Molokai.

10 (c) The members shall serve without compensation, but
11 shall be reimbursed for expenses, including traveling expenses,
12 necessary for the performance of their duties.

13 SECTION 3. (a) With the advice of the Molokai biosecurity
14 advisory board established pursuant to section 2 of this Act,
15 the department of agriculture and biosecurity shall develop a
16 Molokai biosecurity plan to prevent the spread of invasive
17 species to the island of Molokai that are not currently present
18 on Molokai but are present elsewhere in the State, including but
19 not limited to the coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ant,
20 coqui frog, fungi causing rapid 'ōhi'a death, and miconia. The
21 plan shall, at a minimum:



- 1 (1) Address the movement of goods to the island of
- 2 Molokai, including high-risk commodities and pathways;
- 3 (2) Establish inspection, quarantine, and secondary
- 4 screening processes upon the arrival of plants, plant
- 5 materials, livestock, and other domestic animals to
- 6 the island of Molokai;
- 7 (3) Establish reporting, detection, and response protocols
- 8 for suspected invasive species;
- 9 (4) Provide policy recommendations to strengthen
- 10 biosecurity protections for the island of Molokai; and
- 11 (5) Prioritize community and interagency engagement.

12 (b) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall
 13 present the plan to the board of agriculture and biosecurity for
 14 review and adoption no later than July 1, 2027.

15 SECTION 4. The director of finance is authorized to issue
 16 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
 17 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
 18 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2026-2027
 19 for plans, design, construction, and equipment and appurtenances
 20 for a plant, plant materials, livestock, and other domestic



1 animals quarantine and inspection facility on the island of
2 Molokai.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. The appropriation made for the capital
6 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
7 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
8 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
9 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

10 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be
13 allocated as follows:

14 (1) \$ for the establishment and operation of the
15 Molokai biosecurity advisory board;

16 (2) \$ for the development of a Molokai
17 biosecurity plan; and

18 (3) \$ for the establishment of full-
19 time equivalent (FTE) positions to staff the
20 plant, plant materials, livestock, and other domestic
21 animals quarantine and inspection facility and provide



1 other biosecurity support services on the island of
2 Molokai.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of this Act.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
6 agriculture and biosecurity for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DAB; Molokai; Biosecurity; Advisory Board; Quarantine Facility;
Molokai Biosecurity Plan; GO Bonds; Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes a Molokai Biosecurity Advisory Board. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, with the advice of the Advisory Board, to develop a Molokai Biosecurity Plan to prevent the spread of invasive species found elsewhere in the State to the island of Molokai. Authorizes the issuance of GO bonds and appropriates funds for a plants, plant materials, livestock, and other domestic animals inspection and quarantine facility on the island of Molokai and facility staffing. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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