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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 coconut  
2 rhinoceros beetle can have devastating impacts on palm species  
3 that are foundational to the State's agricultural economy,  
4 cultural heritage, and ecosystems. The use of fine mesh nets  
5 can be an effective means of preventing adult coconut rhinoceros  
6 beetles from accessing vulnerable plants, effectively mitigating  
7 their impact on local plants and the environment.

8           The legislature further finds that even though Act 184,  
9 Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, authorizes the department of  
10 agriculture and biosecurity to adopt rules for the use of banned  
11 monofilament netting, such power is only extended for bird  
12 keeping. The legislature is concerned that, due to this  
13 limiting authority, the ability of the department to adopt rules  
14 to allow for the sale of monofilament netting for coconut  
15 rhinoceros beetle interdiction may be thwarted.

16           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Allow for the use of monofilament netting for purposes
- 2 of protecting plants against invasive species under
- 3 certain conditions; and
- 4 (2) Require the department of agriculture and biosecurity
- 5 to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution
- 6 of fine mesh nets, including certain monofilament
- 7 netting, in the State to protect plants from the
- 8 coconut rhinoceros beetle.

9 SECTION 2. Section 141-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 10 amended to read as follows:

11 "[+]§141-17[+] **Fine [~~meshed~~] mesh nets; invasive species;**  
 12 **permissible; rules.** (a) Notwithstanding any other law to the  
 13 contrary, fine [~~meshed~~] mesh nets, including monofilament  
 14 netting of an appropriate mesh size, may be used for the  
 15 protection of plants against invasive species, as determined by  
 16 the department of agriculture and biosecurity; provided that the  
 17 fine [~~meshed~~] mesh nets shall be applied in a manner that is  
 18 unlikely to entangle birds, become dislodged and enter water, or  
 19 entangle or disturb native and beneficial animals, including but  
 20 not limited to pollinators, ladybugs or lady beetles, and net-  
 21 winged insects.



1           (b) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall  
2 adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 to implement this  
3 section, including but not limited to establishing requirements  
4 related to filament diameter, color, and the inclusion of visual  
5 cues to prevent non-targeted entanglement [~~and~~]; prohibiting the  
6 use of mist net material [~~that is used~~] designed for bird  
7 work[~~+~~]; and allowing the distribution and sale of fine mesh  
8 nets, including monofilament netting of an appropriate mesh  
9 size, for the sole purpose of protecting plants from the coconut  
10 rhinoceros beetle (Oryctes rhinoceros)."

11           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

DAB; Rules; Fine Mesh Nets; Monofilament Netting; Coconut  
Rhinoceros Beetle

**Description:**

Allows the use of certain monofilament netting for the protection of plants against invasive species. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish rules allowing the sale and distribution of fine mesh nets, including monofilament netting, in the State to protect plants from the coconut rhinoceros beetle. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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