
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the two-lined
2 spittlebug (*Prosapia bicincta*) is an invasive insect that
3 attacks key forage grasses used by the livestock ranching
4 industry. In 2016, the State's first two-lined spittlebug
5 infestation was discovered in Kailua-Kona on the island of
6 Hawaii, where the pest damaged nearly two thousand acres of
7 pastureland. Grasses damaged by two-lined spittlebug
8 infestations are often unsalvageable and must be replanted.

9 The legislature further finds that two-lined spittlebug
10 infestations have reduced the quality of forage pastures in
11 Hawaii by reducing their nutritional value, palatability, and
12 productivity. Infestations of the pest also promote the
13 establishment of weeds and lower-quality foraging grasses.

14 The legislature additionally finds that livestock ranching
15 is a highly productive and extremely valuable industry on all of
16 the State's major islands. In 2023, the State's livestock
17 industry had a production value of more than \$50,000,000, with



1 an inventory of over 143,000 head of beef cattle. Collectively,
2 ranchlands cover almost twenty per cent of the State's land
3 area.

4 The legislature concludes that the expanding livestock
5 industry serves as an economic engine for the State and is a
6 major employer for local communities. This is particularly true
7 on the island of Hawaii, where most of the State's cattle are
8 raised. Additionally, seventy per cent of all beef cattle in
9 Hawaii are raised on sod-forming grasses, such as kikuyu and
10 pangola. Consequently, two-lined spittlebugs threaten jobs and
11 food security in the State, making it crucial to address
12 infestation and restrict further spread.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a two-
14 year two-lined spittlebug response pilot program to mitigate and
15 control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug.

16 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
17 of agriculture and biosecurity a two-year two-lined spittlebug
18 response pilot program. The pilot program shall:

- 19 (1) Identify new areas of infestation, determine
20 population density, and develop a management plan for
21 the infested area;



1 (2) Apply the use of insecticides, grazing, and other
2 methods for weed management and reseeding pastures;

3 (3) Conduct a cost-benefit study of two-lined spittlebug
4 mitigation techniques;

5 (4) Conduct outreach to state and county departments to
6 reduce the movement of two-lined spittlebugs through
7 heavy machinery;

8 (5) As necessary, take measures to reduce the population
9 of two-lined spittlebugs and assist in recovery
10 efforts; and

11 (6) Provide support for livestock ranchers' mitigation
12 efforts, including reimbursement for approved two-
13 lined spittlebug control measures, as determined by
14 the department of agriculture and biosecurity.

15 (b) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall
16 submit a report to the legislature no later than twenty days
17 prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2027 and 2028.

18 The report shall:

19 (1) Document the expenditure of moneys appropriated by
20 this Act;



- 1 (2) Discuss the progress of activities to mitigate and
- 2 control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug; and
- 3 (3) Provide any findings and recommendations, including
- 4 any proposed legislation.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
8 the establishment and operation of the two-lined spittlebug
9 response pilot program.

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DAB; Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program; Invasive Species; Reports; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a two-year Two-Lined Spittlebug Response Pilot Program to mitigate and control the spread of the two-lined spittlebug. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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