

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that fruit flies are one  
2 of the State's most destructive agricultural pests. The  
3 economic impacts of fruit fly infestations in Hawaii are severe,  
4 leading to millions of dollars in lost agricultural production  
5 and revenue to the State. There are several different fruit  
6 flies in Hawaii, the first of which arrived in 1895. Since  
7 fruit flies have no natural predators in Hawaii, their existence  
8 has persisted over the years. The fruit fly federal quarantine,  
9 which was enacted when Hawaii was a United States territory,  
10 still exists in full effect today due to the presence of fruit  
11 flies in the State and their threat to the continental United  
12 States' agricultural sector. This quarantine, however, is a  
13 major hinderance to the State's expansion of diversified  
14 agriculture.

15           The legislature further finds that in 1999, the United  
16 States Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service  
17 (ARS) funded a five-year area-wide fruit fly pest management



1 system with the goal to develop and implement environmentally  
2 acceptable, biologically based, sustainable pest management  
3 strategies that reduce the use of harsher insecticides while  
4 suppressing fruit flies to economically manageable levels for  
5 the benefit of Hawaii. This program was a cooperative  
6 partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture,  
7 ARS, college of tropical agriculture and human resilience at the  
8 university of Hawaii at Manoa, and department of agriculture and  
9 biosecurity. The area-wide fruit fly program used a combined  
10 approach of field sanitation, protein bait sprays, and male-lure  
11 traps to combat fruit fly infestations. The program  
12 successfully lowered infestation rates to below five per cent  
13 for many crops, increasing yields and marketable products. The  
14 program also significantly reduced insecticide use in some  
15 areas.

16 The legislature also finds that the department of  
17 agriculture and biosecurity has contracted with the college of  
18 tropical agriculture and human resilience at the university of  
19 Hawaii at Manoa to reinitiate the area-wide fruit fly  
20 suppression program with funding from Act 231, Session Laws of  
21 Hawaii 2024. This initial contract is critical to evaluating



1 the ARS's 1999 protocols, methods, and chemicals, and to update  
2 them to meet current needs.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
4 funds to suppress fruit flies in Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for an  
8 area-wide fruit fly suppression program.

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

11 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mike Gabbard



# S.B. NO. 2703

**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Area-Wide Fruit Fly  
Suppression Program, Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Area-Wide Fruit Fly Suppression  
Program.

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

