

**ACT 204**

H.B. NO. 1179

A Bill for an Act Relating to Invasive Species.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), which is native to western Europe and was introduced to Hawaii as a food plant for sheep and as a “living fence”, has become an invasive species due to its aggressive seed dispersal. Gorse has proven very difficult to eradicate and detrimental in native habitats; thus far, it is known to exist on the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, and Molokai.

The legislature further finds that the Aina Mauna legacy program, unanimously approved by the Hawaiian homes commission, is the department of Hawaiian home lands’ guiding framework for well-coordinated management for long-term protection and perpetuation of the Aina Mauna ecosystem in the Humuulu-Piihonua area located on the northeast slopes of Mauna Kea. The program’s mission is to protect approximately fifty-six thousand acres of native Hawaiian forest that is ecologically, culturally, and economically self-sustaining for the Hawaiian home lands trust, its beneficiaries, and the community.

The legislature further finds that a significant need exists for greater economic opportunities for native Hawaiians, some of which could be provided through the collection and product development of gorse from Mauna Kea.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot program within the Aina Mauna legacy program of the department of Hawaiian home lands to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians.

SECTION 2. (a) There is established a pilot program within the Aina Mauna legacy program of the department of Hawaiian home lands to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians.

(b) The department of Hawaiian home lands shall submit to the legislature a report regarding the pilot program no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment of a pilot program within the Aina Mauna legacy program of the department of Hawaiian home lands to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of Hawaiian home lands for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, and shall be repealed on June 30, 2026.

(Approved June 27, 2022.)