
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 the unchecked spread
2 of invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's
3 economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of
4 Hawaii's people. Invasive pests can cause millions of dollars
5 in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the
6 destruction of native forests, the spread of disease, and the
7 quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

8 Island ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to the
9 destructive power of invasive pests. In Guam, the accidental
10 introduction of the brown tree snake has resulted in widespread
11 devastation. Without natural predators or competition for food,
12 brown tree snake populations have grown exponentially, causing
13 mass extinctions of endemic birds. Where there were once bird
14 songs, the silent forests of Guam are now home to as many as
15 fifteen thousand snakes per square mile. The introduction of a
16 single new pest like the brown tree snake could forever change
17 the character of the Hawaiian Islands.



1 Despite ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate invasive
2 species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly at risk
3 from invasive insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds,
4 and other pests. To date, the coqui frog, kariba weed, miconia
5 plant, ohia rust pathogen, nettle caterpillar, and little fire
6 ant have all found their way to Hawaii, disrupting the delicate
7 balance of our ecosystems, crowding out native species, and
8 reducing the biodiversity of our islands.

9 Ports of entry are the gateways through which new invasive
10 pests make their way to the islands. As a result, it is vital
11 that our airports and harbors are prepared with the resources,
12 facilities, and infrastructure to properly prevent the
13 introduction of any new invasive species to our island home.

14 The purpose of this Act is to provide support to our
15 airports and harbors for the infrastructure and facilities
16 necessary to prevent the introduction of new invasive species to
17 Hawaii.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
21 planning, design, and construction of biosecurity facilities at
22 harbors and airports throughout the State.



Report Title:

Biosecurity; Invasive Species; State Facilities; CIP

Description:

Appropriates funds for the planning, design and construction of biosecurity facilities at harbors and airports throughout the State. Effective July 1, 2014.

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