

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 927

To require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2023

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Continued Rapid Ohia
5 Death Response Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the fungus *Ceratocystis*, known as “Rapid
2 Ohia Death”, has killed more than 1,000,000 native
3 trees in the State; and

4 (2) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through
5 the Chief of the Forest Service and the Adminis-
6 trator of the Agricultural Research Service, has pro-
7 vided funding and staff—

8 (A) to identify and detect Rapid Ohia
9 Death;

10 (B) to prevent the spread of Rapid Ohia
11 Death;

12 (C) to identify Ohia trees that are resist-
13 ant to Rapid Ohia Death; and

14 (D) to propagate trees that are resistant to
15 Rapid Ohia Death in order to restore the native
16 forests of the State.

17 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) **RAPID OHIA DEATH.**—The term “Rapid
20 Ohia Death” means the fungus described in section
21 2(1) that has killed more than 1,000,000 native
22 trees in the State.

23 (2) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State
24 of Hawaii.

1 **SEC. 4. COLLABORATION.**

2 The Secretary of the Interior shall partner and col-
3 laborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State
4 to address Rapid Ohia Death.

5 **SEC. 5. SUSTAINED EFFORTS.**

6 (a) TRANSMISSION.—The Secretary of the Interior,
7 acting through the Director of the United States Geologi-
8 cal Survey, shall continue to conduct research on Rapid
9 Ohia Death vectors and transmission.

10 (b) UNGULATE MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary of the
11 Interior, acting through the Director of the United States
12 Fish and Wildlife Service, shall continue to partner with
13 the State and with local stakeholders to manage ungulates
14 in Rapid Ohia Death control areas on Federal, State, and
15 private land.

16 (c) RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.—The Secretary
17 of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest
18 Service, shall continue to provide—

19 (1) financial assistance, including to the Sec-
20 retary of the Interior—

21 (A) to prevent the spread of Rapid Ohia
22 Death; and

23 (B) to restore the native forests of the
24 State; and

1 (2) staff and necessary infrastructure funding
2 to the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry to con-
3 duct research on Rapid Ohia Death.

4 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034, there
6 is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out
7 this Act, including for activities carried out by the Sec-
8 retary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, or
9 both.

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