

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 1726

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **RAPID OHIA DEATH.**—The term “Rapid
7 Ohia Death” means the disease caused by the fungal
8 pathogen known as *Ceratocystis fimbriata* that af-
9 fects the tree of the species *Metrosideros*
10 *polymorpha*.

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

13 **SEC. 3. COLLABORATION.**

14 The Secretary of the Interior shall partner and col-
15 laborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State
16 to address Rapid Ohia Death.

17 **SEC. 4. SUSTAINED EFFORTS.**

18 (a) **TRANSMISSION.**—The Secretary of the Interior,
19 acting through the Director of the United States Geologi-
20 cal Survey, and the Chief of the Forest Service, acting
21 through the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands
22 Forestry, shall continue to conduct research on Rapid
23 Ohia Death vectors and transmission.

24 (b) **UNGULATE MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary of the
25 Interior, acting through the Director of the United States
26 Fish and Wildlife Service, shall continue to partner with

1 the Secretary of Agriculture, the State, and with local
2 stakeholders to manage ungulates in Rapid Ohia Death
3 control areas on Federal, State, and private land, with the
4 consent of private landowners.

5 (c) RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.—The Secretary
6 of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest
7 Service, shall continue to provide—

8 (1) financial assistance, including through
9 agreements with the Secretary of the Interior—

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

12 (B) to restore the native forests of the
13 State; and

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

Passed the House of Representatives September 24,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.