

## RE: H 7071 - Rhode Island Invasive Plant Management Act

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### Position: IN SUPPORT

Dear Members of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing as the Stewardship Director of Sakonnet Preservation Association to express our organization's strong support for H 7071, the Rhode Island Invasive Plant Management Act.

Managing invasive plants represents one of the most significant challenges we face in stewarding conserved lands in Little Compton and all across Rhode Island. These non-native species threaten the integrity of our natural ecosystems, outcompeting native flora and disrupting the habitats that our native wildlife depend upon. The current landscape of invasive species already strains our capacity to maintain healthy, biodiverse environments. The introduction of additional invasive species would only compound this burden.

We are fortunate in Rhode Island to have cultivated an active and dedicated network of native plant propagators and landscapers who are working diligently to restore biodiversity throughout our state. These homegrown organizations represent a valuable resource and a model for conservation-minded land management. Our legislature should support their efforts by preventing the continued distribution and sale of invasive plant species that undermine their work.

H 7071 provides a necessary regulatory framework to prevent new invasive threats from taking root in Rhode Island. By prohibiting the importation, sale, and distribution of listed invasive plants, this legislation will protect our conservation lands, support our burgeoning native plant industry, and help preserve Rhode Island's natural heritage for future generations.

I urge you to support H 7071.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Yorks  
Stewardship Director  
Sakonnet Preservation Association

