
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to the
2 Hawaii Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report
3 released in December 2017, Hawaii could suffer nineteen billion
4 dollars in damage due to projected sea level rise. Worldwide,
5 natural disasters are becoming more severe and frequent. In the
6 United States alone, natural disasters inflicted a record three
7 hundred six billion dollars' worth of damage, breaking the
8 previous record by almost one hundred million dollars. Rising
9 global temperatures threaten biodiversity in every ecosystem,
10 and habitat loss grows as higher temperatures permanently change
11 the life cycles of plants and animals.

12 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is committed to
13 mitigating climate change, including its commitment to have a
14 one hundred per cent renewable energy portfolio by 2045. Mayors
15 from each county of the State have pledged to end the State's
16 dependence on fossil fuels by eliminating fossil fuels from
17 ground transportation by 2045. By legally binding itself to



1 these benchmarks, Hawaii became the first state in the nation to
2 send a clear message to the world that our citizens are
3 determined to secure their energy future and climate health.
4 The legislature notes that Hawaii, as part of the United States
5 Climate Alliance, joined leaders from every other country on
6 earth and committed to upholding the objectives of the 2015
7 Paris Agreement.

8 In Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, the legislature
9 recognized that climate change is real and poses a serious
10 threat to the State's economy, sustainability, and natural
11 resources. In Act 32, the State committed to expanding
12 strategies and mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
13 statewide, striving to formulate and communicate long-term low
14 greenhouse gas emission development strategies, and taking
15 actions to conserve and enhance long-term sinks and reservoirs
16 of greenhouse gases, by prioritizing the development of parks,
17 greenways, and restoration of native upland and coastal forests
18 and wetlands.

19 Carbon sequestration presents ample opportunities for
20 foreign investment in the State's economy. Airlines have
21 demonstrated a desire to invest globally-required carbon offset



1 dollars in Hawaii's environmental projects, as well in as other
2 carbon markets such as California. Companies, governments, and
3 other individuals would also like to offset their carbon
4 footprint by investing in environmental projects such as
5 renewable energies. This interest presents tremendous
6 opportunities for local businesses, agriculture, and communities
7 in general. In Act 33, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, the State
8 established the carbon farming task force to gain a more
9 thorough understanding of how agricultural land management
10 practices can sequester carbon, provide greenhouse gas benefits,
11 and decrease marine sedimentation. The legislature finds that a
12 parallel effort is needed to examine ways to add green canopy to
13 urban areas to curb rising temperatures that have hospitalized
14 and killed residents of this State.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 16 (1) Make permanent the carbon farming task force
17 established by Act 33, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017,
18 and rename the task force the carbon sequestration
19 task force;
- 20 (2) Align the State's clean energy and carbon
21 sequestration efforts with climate initiative goals,



1 and require that a member of the carbon sequestration
2 task force also be a member of the climate change
3 mitigation and adaptation commission; and
4 (3) Expand the mission of the carbon sequestration task
5 force by requiring that the task force examine
6 opportunities to exploit carbon sequestering trees and
7 vegetation to reduce urban temperatures and thereby
8 protect public health.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 225P, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 "§225P- _____ Carbon sequestration task force. (a) The
13 carbon sequestration task force is established within the office
14 of planning for administrative purposes only. The task force
15 shall have the following objectives:

16 (1) Identify and study agricultural and aquacultural
17 practices, public land and marine use policies, and
18 on-farm management practices that would increase
19 climate resiliency and improve carbon sequestration in
20 Hawaii;



- 1 (2) Work with public and private stakeholders to establish
2 short- and long-term benchmarks for increasing carbon
3 sequestration in the State's agricultural and natural
4 environment;
- 5 (3) Identify appropriate criteria to measure baseline
6 levels and increases in carbon sequestration,
7 improvements in soil health, and other key indicators
8 of greenhouse gas benefits from beneficial
9 agricultural and aquacultural practices that may be
10 used to create a certification program for promoting
11 agricultural and aquacultural practices that generate
12 greenhouse gas benefits;
- 13 (4) Identify land and marine use policies, agricultural
14 policies, and mitigation options that would encourage
15 agricultural and aquacultural practices and land use
16 practices that would promote increased carbon
17 sequestration, build healthy soils, and provide
18 greenhouse gas benefits;
- 19 (5) Identify ways to increase the generation and use of
20 compost in Hawaii to build healthy soils;



- 1 (6) Identify agroforestry practices that can be used to
2 enhance carbon sequestration in Hawaii;
- 3 (7) Identify practices and policies that add trees or
4 vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in urban
5 areas to reduce ambient temperatures and increase
6 climate resiliency and improve carbon sequestration in
7 Hawaii; and
- 8 (8) Make recommendations to the legislature and governor
9 regarding measures that would increase climate
10 resiliency, build healthy soils, provide greenhouse
11 gas benefits, or cool urban areas.
- 12 (b) In addition to the objectives listed in subsection
13 (a), the task force may consider:
- 14 (1) Developing incentives and funding mechanisms for these
15 incentives, including but not limited to:
- 16 (A) Loans, tax credits, or grants;
17 (B) Research;
18 (C) Technical assistance; or
19 (D) Educational materials and outreach,
20 to participating agricultural activities,
21 aquacultural activities, or on-farm demonstration



1 projects that are identified and approved by the
2 task force as those that would promote greenhouse
3 gas benefits, build healthy soils, sequester
4 carbon, increase water-holding capacity, and
5 increase crop yields; and

6 (2) Providing for research, education, and technical
7 support for agricultural activities and aquacultural
8 activities identified by the task force.

9 (c) The membership of the carbon sequestration task force
10 shall be as follows:

11 (1) The director of the office of planning or the
12 director's designee, who shall serve as chairperson;

13 (2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
14 chairperson's designee;

15 (3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
16 resources or the chairperson's designee;

17 (4) The director of transportation or the director's
18 designee;

19 (5) The deputy director of the department of health's
20 environmental health administration or the deputy
21 director's designee;



- 1 (6) The director of the office of environmental quality
2 control or the director's designee;
- 3 (7) The director of the center for island climate
4 adaptation and policy at the University of Hawaii at
5 Manoa;
- 6 (8) The administrator of the division of forestry and
7 wildlife within the department of land and natural
8 resources or the administrator's designee;
- 9 (9) One member who is also a member of the climate change
10 mitigation and adaptation commission;
- 11 (10) One researcher from the college of tropical
12 agriculture and human resources at the University of
13 Hawaii at Manoa;
- 14 (11) One extension agent from the college of tropical
15 agriculture and human resources at the University of
16 Hawaii at Manoa;
- 17 (12) Four members, one each to be appointed by the
18 respective mayors of the counties of Hawaii, Honolulu,
19 Kauai, and Maui; and
- 20 (13) Four members to be jointly selected and invited to
21 participate by the president of the senate and the



1 speaker of the house of representatives, of which two
2 members shall be selected from an environmental
3 nonprofit organization, and two members shall be
4 selected from an agricultural or ranching association.

5 Task force members may recommend to the task force
6 additional members with appropriate specialized expertise,
7 subject to approval by the chairperson.

8 (d) Members of the task force shall be exempt from section
9 26-34 and shall serve without compensation, but shall be
10 reimbursed for reasonable expenses necessary for the performance
11 of their duties, including travel expenses.

12 (e) The carbon sequestration task force shall:

13 (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and
14 recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
15 to the legislature and the climate change mitigation
16 and adaptation commission no later than twenty days
17 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023;
18 provided that the preliminary report shall discuss the
19 objectives and issues listed in subsections (a) and
20 (b), including the following:



- 1 (A) Types of agricultural and aquacultural practices,
2 public land and marine use policies, and on-farm
3 managing practices that would provide greenhouse
4 gas benefits;
- 5 (B) Short-term and long-term benchmarks that would
6 indicate how effectively agricultural and
7 aquacultural activities have been helping the
8 State to reach carbon neutrality;
- 9 (C) Appropriate criteria that may be used in a
10 certification program to measure baseline levels
11 and increases in carbon sequestration,
12 improvements in soil health, and other key
13 indicators of greenhouse gas benefits from
14 beneficial agricultural and aquacultural
15 practices;
- 16 (D) Types of incentives, grants, research, and
17 assistance that would promote:
- 18 (i) Agricultural and aquacultural practices to
19 produce greenhouse gas benefits; and
- 20 (ii) Land and marine use policies and
21 agricultural policies that would encourage



1 agricultural, aquacultural, and land use
2 practices to provide greenhouse gas
3 benefits; and

4 (E) Practices and policies that add trees or
5 vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in
6 urban areas to reduce ambient temperatures and
7 increase climate resiliency and improve carbon
8 sequestration in Hawaii; and

9 (2) Beginning with the regular session of 2024, submit an
10 annual report of its findings and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
12 and the climate change mitigation and adaptation
13 commission no later than twenty days prior to the
14 convening of each regular session.

15 (f) The office of planning shall provide administrative
16 and clerical support required by the task force."

17 SECTION 3. Section 225P-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 " ~~[+]~~ §225P-1 ~~[+]~~ **Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to
20 address the effects of climate change to protect the State's



1 economy, environment, health, and way of life. This chapter
2 establishes the framework for the State to:

- 3 (1) Adapt to the inevitable impacts of global warming and
4 climate change, including rising sea levels,
5 temperatures, and other risk factors; and
- 6 (2) Mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions by setting a
7 goal to sequester more atmospheric carbon than the
8 State produces by 2045 and working to achieve that
9 goal."

10 SECTION 4. Act 32, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, is amended
11 by amending section 10 to read as follows:

12 "SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017;
13 provided that section 6 shall take effect on [~~July 1, 2022.~~]
14 January 1, 2045."

15 SECTION 5. Act 33, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, is
16 repealed.

17 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
20 purpose of funding the carbon sequestration task force.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
2 planning for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

6

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 20 2018



H.B. NO. 2182

Report Title:

Environmental Protection; Carbon; Sequestration; Emissions; Farming; Office of Planning; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Makes permanent the carbon farming task force established by Act 33, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, and renames the task force the carbon sequestration task force. Aligns the State's clean energy and carbon sequestration efforts with climate initiative goals. Requires 1 of the members of the Carbon Sequestration Task Force to also be a member of the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Expands the mission of the Carbon Sequestration Task Force by requiring that the task force identify practices and policies to add trees or vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy. Makes an appropriation.

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