
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds, as declared in the World
2 Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of 2016, that "[w]e
3 must undertake profound transformations in how human societies
4 live on Earth, with particular attention to making our patterns
5 of production and consumption more sustainable. We must
6 recognize that human health and wellbeing depend on healthy
7 ecosystems. We must recognize that every form of life has value
8 - regardless of its worth to humans." Hawaii has been a leader
9 in conservation efforts for decades, through its commitment to
10 environmental and sustainability policies. In the 1970s, the
11 State enacted the State Environmental Policy, chapter 344,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, as a mechanism to set environmental
13 goals. While comprehensive, it lacked measurable indicators and
14 enforcement means. Our understanding of the challenges facing
15 our natural environment worldwide has changed remarkably since
16 the 1970s. The laws enacted in Hawaii in recent decades have
17 served as an example for other jurisdictions and set a global



1 example on how to adopt policies on sustainability. More
2 recently, several approaches to sustainability have emerged in
3 Hawaii, including the Aloha+ Challenge, the governor's
4 sustainable Hawaii initiative, and other initiatives inspired by
5 the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage and Mālama Hawaii.

6 In July of 2014, the State launched the Aloha+ Challenge, a
7 statewide commitment to sustainability, with the leadership of
8 the governor, four county mayors, office of Hawaiian affairs,
9 legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners
10 across the State. *The Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona 'Ae'ōia, A*
11 *Culture of Sustainability*, builds on Hawaii's history of systems
12 thinking, Hawaiian culture and values, and successful track
13 record on sustainability to outline the following six ambitious
14 goals to be achieved by 2030:

- 15 (1) Clean energy: Achieve seventy per cent clean energy,
16 with forty per cent from renewables and thirty per
17 cent from efficiency;
- 18 (2) Local food: At least double local food production for
19 local consumption;
- 20 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of
21 natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing



1 freshwater security, watershed protection, community-
2 based marine management, invasive species control, and
3 restoration of native species;

4 (4) Waste reduction: Reduce the solid waste stream prior
5 to disposal by seventy per cent through source
6 reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill
7 diversion methods;

8 (5) Smart sustainable communities: Increase livability
9 and resilience in the built environment through
10 planning and implementation at the state and county
11 levels; and

12 (6) Green workforce and education: Increase local green
13 jobs and education to implement these goals.

14 To increase the efforts of the Aloha+ Challenge, the
15 governor launched the sustainable Hawaii initiative in 2016,
16 which includes five goals:

17 (1) Double local food production by 2020;

18 (2) Implement Hawaii's interagency biosecurity plan by
19 2027;

20 (3) Protect thirty per cent of the highest priority
21 watersheds by 2030;



- 1 (4) Manage thirty per cent of nearshore ocean waters by
2 2030; and
3 (5) Achieve one hundred per cent renewable energy in
4 electricity by 2045.

5 In May of 2014, Hōkūle‘a began a three-year voyage across
6 the world's oceans carrying the message of Mālama Honua - to
7 care for the earth. Building on the legacy of the Polynesian
8 way finders, the Hōkūle‘a Worldwide Voyage inspired actions of
9 conservation across the Hawaiian Islands and beyond, resulting
10 in the connection of a lei of aloha around the globe.

11 At the global level, the United Nations Sustainable
12 Development Goals, the World Conservation Congress Hawai‘i
13 Commitments of 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement have been
14 adopted to guide global efforts. The sustainable development
15 goals, otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
16 Development, which were born at the United Nations Conference on
17 Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and came into
18 force in 2015, are a universal call to action to end poverty,
19 protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and
20 prosperity. The seventeen sustainable development goals are
21 interconnected and work in the spirit of partnership and



1 pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life in a
2 sustainable way for future generations. They provide a clear
3 framework for action to guide countries in accordance with their
4 own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at
5 large. They also tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us
6 together to make a positive change for both people and the
7 planet.

8 Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how we
9 manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality
10 and better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering
11 peaceful and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and
12 help economies prosper. The sustainable development goals are
13 voluntary commitments to make the world a better and more
14 prosperous place.

15 During September 2016, over ten thousand leaders from
16 government, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and
17 spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia gathered
18 in Hawaii for a meeting of the International Union for
19 Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Delegates
20 to the Congress adopted the World Conservation Congress Hawaii
21 Commitments in order to achieve the transformation required to



1 promote a "Culture of Conservation". The World Conservation
2 Congress Hawaii Commitments consist of seven identified
3 challenges and proposed solutions, including:

- 4 (1) Linking spirituality, religion, culture, and
5 conservation;
- 6 (2) Engaging and empowering youth;
- 7 (3) The challenge of sustaining the global food supply and
8 conserving nature;
- 9 (4) The challenge of preserving the health of the world
10 oceans;
- 11 (5) The challenge of ending wildlife trafficking;
- 12 (6) The challenge of engaging with the private sector; and
- 13 (7) The challenge of climate change.

14 The World Conservation Congress Hawaii Commitments build on
15 the Paris Climate Agreement and the sustainable development
16 goals to allow different global voices to come together and find
17 common ground in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and
18 sustainability.

19 In order for Hawaii to continue to serve as an example for
20 the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and
21 to serve as a global leader on issues of conservation and



1 sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its
2 full commitment to its own policies and goals as well as the
3 goals set on the international stage at United Nations
4 conferences and summits on sustainability.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to codify the State's
6 commitment to conservation and sustainability by including goal
7 thirteen of the seventeen United Nations sustainable development
8 goals and indicators, climate action, with references to
9 existing state sustainability programs, if applicable, in the
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§344- Sustainable development goals; climate action.
15 In pursuance of the State's sustainability goals,
16 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies, insofar
17 as practicable, shall assist the State in achieving the
18 sustainable development goal of taking urgent action to combat
19 climate change and its impacts by 2030 by:

20 (1) Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to
21 climate-related hazards and natural disasters



1 statewide in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and
2 the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of
3 2016;

4 (2) Integrating climate change measures into state
5 policies, strategies, and planning; and

6 (3) Improving education, awareness-raising, and human and
7 institutional capacity on climate change mitigation,
8 adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning,
9 pursuant to the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2674
S.D. 1

Report Title:

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal Thirteen; Climate Action

Description:

Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal thirteen, climate action. (SD1)

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