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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LANAI WATERSHED.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of Lanai  
2 is one of the least forested of the main Hawaiian islands, has a  
3 relatively low annual rainfall, and has a sustainable yield from  
4 its aquifers of six million gallons per day. A 1995 study  
5 estimated that more than sixty-five per cent of Lanai's primary  
6 aquifer's recharge comes from fog drip, and that the loss of fog  
7 drip from Lana'ihale would lead to the loss of more than fifty  
8 per cent of the water levels in the island's central aquifer,  
9 which is the only viable water source for the island. Studies  
10 indicate that fog drip interception by mountain forests  
11 increases precipitation by as much as thirty per cent and  
12 recharge by ten to fifteen per cent. It is undisputed that the  
13 forest contributes to fog drip, and that the loss of forest  
14 cover will alter precipitation and recharge of the aquifer.

15           The legislature finds that the execution of a watershed  
16 management plan that includes the removal of feral ungulates  
17 from Lana'ihale, the control and removal of alien weeds, and the



1 protection of the native forest should be among the priorities  
2 for the protection of this critical fresh water recharge area.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require that funding for the  
4 watershed management plan for Lana'ihale be provided solely from  
5 private sources and to require the department of land and  
6 natural resources to control and manage implementation of the  
7 plan.

8 SECTION 2. Funding to implement the Lana'ihale watershed  
9 management plan shall be provided solely by private funding  
10 sources rather than state financial resources; provided that  
11 this Act shall not diminish, impair, or prohibit the encumbrance  
12 or expenditure of any state funds appropriated for the  
13 implementation of the Lana'ihale watershed management plan prior  
14 to the effective date of this Act.

15 The department of land and natural resources shall control  
16 and manage implementation of the Lana'ihale watershed management  
17 plan.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Lanaihale Watershed Management Plan; Lanai

**Description:**

Requires private funding sources to implement the Lanaihale watershed management plan. Requires the department of land and natural resources to control and manage implementation of the Lanaihale watershed management plan. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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