
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 171-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) The board of land and natural resources shall be
4 composed of seven members, one from each land district and three
5 at large, to be nominated and, by and with the advice and
6 consent of the senate, appointed by the governor as provided in
7 section 26-34. The term and removal of a member of the board
8 and the filling of a vacancy on the board shall also be as
9 provided in section 26-34. There shall be not more than three
10 members on the board from the same political party. At least
11 one member of the board shall have a background in conservation
12 and natural resources, as evidenced by:

13 (1) A college degree in a relevant field, including
14 forestry, wildlife conservation, geology,
15 environmental science, or marine biology; or

16 (2) Work history sufficient to demonstrate an appropriate
17 level of knowledge in the subject of land and natural
18 resources, including parks and recreation, public

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1 lands management, natural area reserves, aquatic
2 resources, boating and recreation, forestry and
3 wildlife, water resources management, or conservation
4 and resources.

5 Furthermore, at least one member of the board shall have a
6 background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary
7 practices."

8 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 3. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect
10 on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:  _____

BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2014

H.B. NO. 2324

Report Title:

Board of Land and Natural Resources Membership; Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Practices

Description:

Amends the composition of the Board of Land and Natural Resources by requiring that at least one member shall have a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Land and Natural Resources

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

PURPOSE: To amend the composition of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) by requiring that at least one member shall have a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

MEANS: Amend section 171-4(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Native Hawaiian culture has knowledge that has been passed on for generations and is still practiced for the purpose of perpetuating traditional protocols, caring for and protecting the environment, and strengthening cultural and spiritual connections.

Pursuant to various statutes, nearly all the boards and commissions under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) require a member with a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices. Currently however, the Board does not require that at least one member have a background in native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.

Incorporating at least one member with such a background on the Board would provide an opportunity for valuable knowledge of native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices to be included in decisions regarding resources of significance to the native Hawaiian culture.

Impact on the public: This bill would allow the public to benefit from knowledge of native Hawaiian traditional and customary

practices with regard to decisions affecting natural resources.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
This bill would provide the Department with valuable knowledge of native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices with regard to decisions affecting natural resources.

GENERAL FUND: None.
OTHER FUNDS: None.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: LNR 101.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: None.
EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014.