
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE
ALOHA+ CHALLENGE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. Through S.C.R. No. 69, S.D. 1, in 2014, the
3 legislature endorsed and supported the integrated approach and
4 six ambitious targets of the Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of
5 Sustainability -- He Nohona 'Ae'oia (Aloha+ Challenge) to be
6 achieved by 2030, which was also accepted by the governor,
7 mayors of all the counties, and chairperson of the board of
8 trustees of the office of Hawaiian affairs. Furthermore, Hawaii
9 Green Growth--a voluntary partnership of state, county, federal,
10 business, and nongovernmental leaders from many sectors,
11 including clean energy, local food production, natural resource
12 management, waste reduction, climate change mitigation and
13 adaptation, planning, green jobs, and others--have supported
14 this shared statewide commitment to sustainability.

15 The targets of the Aloha+ Challenge are based on current
16 state priorities and policies, and include:



- 1 (1) Clean energy: seventy per cent clean energy,
2 including forty per cent from renewables and thirty
3 per cent from efficiency;
- 4 (2) Local food: At least double the local food production
5 with a goal of twenty to thirty per cent of food
6 consumed being grown locally;
- 7 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of
8 natural resource loss, mauka to makai, by increasing
9 watershed protection, community-based marine
10 management, invasive species prevention and control,
11 and restoration of native species;
- 12 (4) Waste reduction: Reduce the solid waste stream prior
13 to disposal by fifty per cent through source
14 reduction, recycling, and bioconversion;
- 15 (5) Smart sustainable communities: Increase livability
16 and resilience in the built environment through
17 planning and implementation at the state and county
18 levels; and
- 19 (6) Green workforce: Increase local green jobs and
20 education to implement these targets.



1 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to implement
 2 the natural resource management goal. Funding these items is
 3 essential for the success of many of the other goals of the
 4 Aloha+ Challenge. Furthermore, these items are essential to
 5 keep Hawaii unique; improve the quality of life, health, and
 6 safety for Hawaii's residents and visitors; and maintain
 7 Hawaii's economy. These items are also critical for the
 8 sustenance of irreplaceable cultural and natural values.

9 Moreover, these items directly address major threats due to
 10 climate change by increasing resilience to drought conditions,
 11 more frequent and more extreme natural disasters, and expanded
 12 ranges of invasive species.

13 PART II

14 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that climate change
 15 significantly threatens Hawaii's freshwater supplies. The
 16 islands have already experienced decades of reduced rainfall as
 17 well as changes in tradewind patterns and higher temperatures.
 18 As these trends accelerate, Hawaii's limited supplies of fresh
 19 water will be further taxed.

20 Through Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, the
 21 legislature recognized that fresh water is not an infinite



1 resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability
2 depend upon forested watersheds.

3 Protecting and restoring Hawaii's forests will be critical
4 for climate-change resiliency on many levels. In addition to
5 increasing freshwater supplies, these forests also reduce stress
6 on coral reefs and fisheries by preventing erosion.
7 Furthermore, these forests store carbon, significantly reducing
8 Hawaii's carbon emissions. For these reasons, the Hawaii
9 greenhouse gas emissions reduction task force strongly
10 recommends opportunities for reforestation projects to meet the
11 targets of the Hawaii clean energy initiative. The
12 intergovernmental panel on climate change also identified
13 preventing deforestation as the largest and most immediate
14 impact on carbon stock in the short term.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
18 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
19 2016-2017 for projects undertaken in accordance with watershed
20 management plans.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 PART III

4 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that the invasion of
5 Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
6 other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy
7 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of
8 Hawaii's people. The legislature further finds that immediate
9 action is needed to mitigate the threats and effects of invasive
10 species.

11 Pests already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the
12 extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests,
13 and the spread of disease. In addition, many more harmful pests
14 now threaten to invade Hawaii and wreak further damage. Even a
15 single new pest, like the brown tree snake or the red imported
16 fire ant, could forever change the character of our islands.
17 For example, a 2010 study by Shwiff, et al., estimated that if
18 brown tree snakes became established in Hawaii, the cost to the
19 State in lost tourism, health-care costs, and damage to power
20 infrastructure could range from \$593,000,000 to \$2,140,000,000
21 per year. A 2007 study by Gutrich, et al., estimated that the

1 establishment of red imported fire ants in Hawaii would cost
2 \$211,000,000 annually, including \$77,000,000 in control expenses
3 and damage to utility, business, and household infrastructure
4 and \$134,000,000 in lost outdoor opportunities for visitors and
5 residents. Studies and experience show that preventing the
6 introduction and spread of pests is more cost-effective than
7 reactive responses or simply absorbing the economic, social,
8 cultural, and ecological losses caused by established pests that
9 are allowed to spread unchecked. Stopping the influx of new
10 pests and containing their spread is essential to Hawaii's
11 current and future well-being.

12 The legislature has already recognized the critical
13 importance of invasive species in Hawaii, beginning with S.C.R.
14 No. 45, H.D. 1, in 2001; followed by the 2002 study by the
15 legislative reference bureau entitled "Filling the Gaps in the
16 Fight Against Invasive Species"; and followed by Act 85, Session
17 Laws of Hawaii 2003, which resulted in the creation of the
18 interagency Hawaii invasive species council. The Hawaii
19 invasive species council, mandated by chapter 194, Hawaii
20 Revised Statutes, is created for the special purpose of
21 providing policy-level direction, coordination, and planning



1 among agencies in Hawaii. The Hawaii invasive species council
2 has met this mandate, in part, by disbursing funds on an annual
3 basis to support critical invasive species prevention, control,
4 outreach, research, and planning projects that enhance or
5 supplement existing departmental projects.

6 A 2002 study by the legislative reference bureau estimated
7 the annual cost of addressing invasive species in Hawaii at
8 \$50,000,000. The original goal for an annual Hawaii invasive
9 species council budget was \$5,000,000 from the general fund,
10 though the initial approved appropriation in fiscal year 2005
11 was \$2,000,000. From fiscal years 2010-2013, no general funds
12 were provided. In fiscal year 2014, \$750,000 was provided from
13 the general fund. In fiscal year 2015, \$5,750,000 was provided
14 from the general fund. A continued commitment to having the
15 best possible understanding, science, plans, capacity, and
16 appropriated funds is necessary to maintain and enhance invasive
17 species prevention and mitigation in Hawaii to effectively
18 protect Hawaii's natural resources, the economy of the State,
19 and the health and lifestyle of its people.

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2016-2017 for projects undertaken in accordance with the Hawaii
4 invasive species council, including but not limited to invasive
5 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

8 PART IV

9 SECTION 6. The legislature finds that additional resources
10 are necessary for emergency response and preparedness for
11 natural disasters. Events such as flooding, hurricanes, and
12 wildfires are expected to increase in frequency and severity as
13 climate change accelerates.

14 As invasive species spread, our islands also become
15 increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters. Hurricane Iselle
16 demonstrated the destructive qualities of invasive species, such
17 as albizia trees, which toppled during high winds. Wildfires
18 have been intensified by fire-prone invasive species, such as
19 fountain grass and other plants that increase fuel loads.
20 Erosion caused by flooding has also greatly increased as native



1 forests are replaced by shallow-rooted invasive plants or become
2 barren areas.

3 The department of land and natural resources, division of
4 forestry and wildlife, is responsible for wildfire preparedness
5 and response as well as assisting federal, state, and county
6 agencies during emergencies and natural disasters. Hawaii's
7 responders need access to new technologies developed to increase
8 efficiency and the effectiveness of detection and response to
9 these types of natural disasters that affect natural
10 environments as well as public safety.

11 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2016-2017 for equipment for fire, natural disaster, and
16 emergency response.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
18 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

19 PART V

20 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that in order to foster
21 "A Culture of Sustainability -- He Nohona 'Ae'oiā," Hawaii's



1 residents and visitors need to enjoy and connect with the
2 natural environment. Visiting natural areas cultivates respect
3 and appreciation for Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage.
4 First-hand experiences in nature teach youth and adults the
5 importance of these natural resources so that they can be
6 appreciated and protected now and in the future.

7 Hiking, gathering, hunting, and other outdoor recreational
8 activities are also beneficial for mental and physical health.
9 In addition to providing a source of exercise, spending time in
10 natural environments significantly reduces stress and
11 depression, increases the ability to focus attention,
12 strengthens the immune system, and improves longevity.

13 Outdoor recreation is also central to Hawaii's visitor
14 industry. Hawaii's iconic trails and natural areas are a major
15 attraction. A 1997 study by Roumasset, et al., found that the
16 Koolau mountains provide a present net value of \$1,000,000,000
17 to \$3,000,000,000 for ecotourism alone.

18 Trails, public access, and other infrastructure allow
19 Hawaii's population to experience the islands' natural
20 environment. Improvements are needed statewide to address the
21 deteriorating conditions of these trails, particularly high-use



1 trails frequented by visitors. Furthermore, development,
2 particularly in rural areas, can restrict access points for the
3 public to hike, gather, and hunt in public lands. Funding is
4 needed to improve the infrastructure and access necessary to
5 connect people to the natural environment, which offers so many
6 benefits to the health of Hawaii's people and economy.

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2016-2017 for forest and outdoor recreation improvement.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
13 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 PART VI

15 SECTION 10. This Act does not affect the rights and duties
16 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that
17 were begun, before its effective date.



1 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2015



H.B. NO. 437

Report Title:

Aloha+ Challenge; Natural Resource Goals; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds for the natural resource goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

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