

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1 **PART I**

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that through S.C.R. No.
3 69, S.D. 1, regular session of 2014, the legislature endorsed
4 and supported the integrated approach and six ambitious targets
5 of the Aloha+ Challenge to be achieved by 2030, which were also
6 accepted by the governor, mayors of all the counties, and the
7 chair of the board of trustees of the office of Hawaiian
8 affairs. Additionally, Hawaii Green Growth, a voluntary
9 partnership of state, county, federal, business, and
10 nongovernmental leaders from many sectors, including clean
11 energy, local food production, natural resource management,
12 waste reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation,
13 planning, green jobs, and others, have supported this shared
14 statewide commitment to sustainability.

15 The targets of the Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of
16 Sustainability -- He Nohona 'Ae'ōia are based on current state
17 priorities and policies and include:



- 1 (1) Achieving 70 per cent clean energy, including 40 per
2 cent from renewables and 30 per cent from efficiency;
- 3 (2) At least doubling the local food production with a
4 goal of 20 to 30 per cent of food consumed being grown
5 locally;
- 6 (3) Reversing the trend of natural resource loss mauka to
7 makai by increasing watershed protection, community-
8 based marine management, invasive species prevention
9 and control, and restoration of native species;
- 10 (4) Reducing the solid waste stream prior to disposal by
11 50 per cent, through source reduction, recycling, and
12 bioconversion;
- 13 (5) Establishing smart sustainable communities by
14 increasing livability and resilience in the built
15 environment through planning and implementation at the
16 state and county levels; and
- 17 (6) Increasing the green workforce through local green
18 jobs and education to implement these targets.

19 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to implement
20 the natural resource management goal. These items are essential
21 to meet the Aloha+ Challenge and to keep Hawaii unique, improve



1 the quality of life, health, and safety for Hawaii's residents
2 and visitors, and maintain Hawaii's economy.

3 **PART II**

4 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that climate change is
5 significantly threatening Hawaii's fresh water supplies due to
6 reduced rainfall, changes in tradewind patterns, and higher
7 temperatures. The legislature further finds that through Act
8 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000, the legislature recognized
9 that fresh water is not an infinite resource and its high
10 quality, quantity, and sustainability depend upon forested
11 watersheds. The Hawaii greenhouse gas emissions reduction task
12 force strongly recommends opportunities for reforestation
13 projects to meet targets of the Hawaii clean energy initiative.
14 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also identified
15 preventing deforestation as the largest and most immediate
16 carbon stock impact in the short term.

17 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2016-2017 for projects undertaken in accordance with watershed
2 management plans.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

5 **PART III**

6 SECTION 4. The legislature finds that the invasion of
7 Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and
8 other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy
9 and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of
10 Hawaii's people. The legislature further finds that immediate
11 action is needed to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive
12 species. Studies and experience show that preventing
13 introduction and spread of pests is more cost effective than
14 reactive responses or simply absorbing the economic, social,
15 cultural, and ecological losses caused by established pests that
16 are allowed to spread unchecked. A continued commitment to
17 having the best possible understanding, science, plans,
18 capacity, and appropriated funds is necessary to maintain and
19 enhance invasive species prevention and mitigation in Hawaii to
20 effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources, economy, and the
21 health and lifestyle of its people.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$6,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2016-2017 for projects undertaken in accordance with the Hawaii
6 invasive species council, including but not limited to invasive
7 species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
9 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

10 **PART IV**

11 SECTION 6. The legislature finds that additional resources
12 are necessary for emergency response and preparedness for
13 natural disasters. Events such as flooding, hurricanes, and
14 wildfires are expected to increase in frequency and severity as
15 climate change accelerates. Hawaii's responders need access to
16 new technologies developed to increase efficiency and
17 effectiveness of detection of and response to these types of
18 natural disasters that affect natural environments, as well as
19 public safety.

20 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000 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 equipment for fire, natural disaster, and
4 emergency response.

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

7 **PART V**

8 SECTION 8. The legislature finds that in order to foster
9 "A Culture of Sustainability - He Nohona 'Ae'olia", Hawaii's
10 residents and visitors need to enjoy and connect with the
11 natural environment. Visiting natural areas cultivates respect
12 and appreciation for Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage and
13 Hawaii's natural resources. Being in natural environments
14 provides a source of exercise and may significantly reduce
15 stress and depression, increase ability to focus attention,
16 strengthen the immune system, and improve longevity. Hawaii's
17 iconic trails and natural areas are a major destination and
18 economic driver. Statewide, improvements are needed to address
19 deteriorating conditions of public access areas, particularly
20 high-use trails frequented by visitors. Further, development,
21 particularly in rural areas, can restrict access points for the



1 public to hike, gather, and hunt in public lands. Funding is
2 needed to improve the infrastructure and access necessary to
3 connect people to the natural environment that provides so many
4 benefits to the health of Hawaii's people and economy.

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

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
11 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

12 **PART VI**

13 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

14

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 544

Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Watershed Management; Invasive Species; Emergency Response; Recreation; Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

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