
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Through Act 340, Session Laws of Hawaii 1993,
2 the legislature found that the island of Kaho'olawe was of
3 significant cultural and historic importance to the native
4 people of Hawaii. The legislature also found that, due to
5 extensive erosion and other ecological problems, the presence of
6 unexploded ordnance, the existence of archaeological and other
7 cultural and historic sites, and the presence of native and
8 endangered flora and fauna, a new management regime was needed
9 to effectively meet the unique challenges of restoring,
10 preserving, and determining the appropriate use of Kaho'olawe.

11 The Kaho'olawe island reserve commission is funded
12 predominantly by a dwindling trust fund created in 1994 during
13 the federal cleanup of unexploded ordnance on Kaho'olawe.
14 Although it was a considerable amount, the federal appropriation
15 totaling approximately \$44,000,000 over a period of several
16 years was not substantial enough to establish a sustainable
17 endowment for the long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe.



1 As stated in the federally mandated Kaho'olawe island
2 conveyance commission final report to Congress in 1993, "In the
3 short term, federal funds will provide the bulk of the program
4 support for specific soil conservation projects and related
5 activities. In the longer term, however, state revenues will be
6 needed to continue and enhance those activities initiated with
7 federal funds." For the past twenty-one years, federal funding
8 has allowed the Kaho'olawe island reserve commission to establish
9 many innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and
10 traditional knowledge, use a cultural approach of respect for
11 and connectivity to the environment, and integrate ancient and
12 modern resource-management techniques.

13 In 2004, the management and control of the Kaho'olawe island
14 reserve was transferred from the United States Navy to the State
15 of Hawaii, with the Kaho'olawe island reserve commission as the
16 state agency designated to oversee the use and restoration of
17 the reserve. During the past ten years, the Kaho'olawe island
18 reserve commission has been able to develop innovative
19 restoration projects that are effective in the extremely harsh
20 conditions of Kaho'olawe and will serve as the foundation for the
21 future restoration of the island.



1 A fiscal audit of the Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund
2 performed by the office of the auditor in 2013 reported two key
3 findings. First, and more importantly, the trust fund will be
4 depleted by 2016. Second, the Kaho'olawe island reserve
5 commission lacks a comprehensive and quantifiable restoration
6 plan with performance measures to gauge whether objectives are
7 being met.

8 Also in 2013, the Kaho'olawe island reserve commission
9 embarked on the development of a 2026 strategic plan for
10 Kaho'olawe, marking fifty years of occupation of Kaho'olawe by
11 the people of Hawaii and laying out a pathway for the future use
12 and management of the Kaho'olawe island reserve. After a two-
13 year effort that engaged Hawaii's residents through numerous
14 community meetings and focus-group sessions held on multiple
15 occasions on each of the islands, the multi-organizational
16 Kaho'olawe strategic planning working group developed an island-
17 wide, community-based strategic plan, entitled "I Ola Kanaloa",
18 or "Life to Kanaloa", that addresses the future restoration,
19 management, and uses of Kaho'olawe for the State, the people of
20 Hawaii, and a possible future sovereign Native Hawaiian entity.
21 Pursuant to section 6K-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the



1 management and control of the Kaho'olawe island reserve will be
2 transferred to a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity upon its
3 recognition by the state and federal governments. This event is
4 anticipated to occur within the timeframe of the 2026 strategic
5 plan.

6 Without additional funding, the Kaho'olawe island reserve
7 commission will not be able to continue its innovative
8 management regime beyond fiscal year 2016. The Kaho'olawe island
9 reserve commission's management and control of Kaho'olawe is not
10 only restoring the ecological damage on Kaho'olawe and protecting
11 its endangered and rare flora and fauna, but is also ensuring
12 that the people of Hawaii who visit the Kaho'olawe island reserve
13 can do so meaningfully and safely.

14 The purpose of this Act is to provide funds to the
15 department of land and natural resources for the Kaho'olawe
16 island reserve commission to effectively meet the unique
17 challenges of restoring, preserving, and determining the
18 appropriate uses of the Kaho'olawe island reserve for the people
19 of Hawaii.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 3 2018-2019 for LNR - natural and physical environment (LNR906)
 4 for the Kaho'olawe island reserve commission.

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

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
 10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 11 2018-2019 to fund nineteen full-time equivalent (19.00 FTE)
 12 permanent positions in natural and physical environment (LNR906)
 13 for the Kaho'olawe island reserve commission.

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.
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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 620

Report Title:

Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to support the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

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