
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System
2 is a network of twenty-eight protected areas along America's
3 coasts. According to the *National Estuarine Research Reserve*
4 *System Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, the System is founded on the
5 principle that long-term protection of representative estuaries
6 provides stable platforms for research, education, and the
7 application of management practices that will benefit the
8 nation's estuaries and coasts.

9 The legislature finds that the State has coordinated with
10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to
11 nominate He'eia estuary as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.
12 The site, located on Oahu's windward shore, includes He'eia state
13 park, He'eia fishpond, and the He'eia community development
14 district, as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs
15 and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island). In 2012, the office of
16 planning was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the
17 site selection for a Hawai'i site to be designated as a National



1 Estuarine Research Reserve and nomination process for the He'eia
2 site to be designated as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.
3 In 2014, He'eia was officially nominated as a National Estuarine
4 Research Reserve to support NOAA's policy to encourage expansion
5 of the program in unrepresented areas of the country.

6 The He'eia site was chosen as the preferred site after a
7 statewide solicitation period from interested communities. The
8 office of planning supported the designation process through the
9 development of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve
10 System management plan. On January 19, 2017, the He'eia site was
11 officially designated as the twenty-ninth site in the National
12 Estuarine Research Reserve System, which enables federal funding
13 to support the implementation of the management plan.

14 The University of Hawaii, Hawaii institute of marine
15 biology, is the lead agency for implementation of the He'eia
16 National Estuarine Research Reserve System management plan, with
17 partners to include the Hawaii community development authority,
18 department of land and natural resources, and several community
19 organizations. For He'eia reserve to succeed in its function
20 within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, funding
21 for initial staffing is essential. The initial staffing needs



1 are four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions: reserve
2 manager, education coordinator, research coordinator, and
3 cultural resource coordinator. Although the University of
4 Hawaii has agreed to fund these positions in the first year,
5 further funding is required to sustain them and to keep He'eia
6 reserve fully functioning. These positions must be established
7 as well as sustained to develop and manage He'eia reserve and
8 keep it fully functioning. The legislature notes that as
9 funding or partnership opportunities become available,
10 additional staff will be required within the first five years to
11 meet management plan goals and objectives, and further notes
12 that the federal government matches state appropriations on a
13 seventy per cent (federal) to thirty per cent (state) basis.

14 The purpose of this Act is to support He'eia estuary in its
15 designation as a National Estuarine Research Reserve by
16 appropriating funds to maintain the initial staff necessary to
17 develop and manage He'eia reserve and its programs.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
21 hiring of four full-time equivalent (4.00 FTE) permanent



1 positions in the University of Hawaii to maintain the initial
2 staff necessary to develop and manage He'eia reserve and its
3 programs.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on March 14, 2092.

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Report Title:

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve; Staff Hiring;
University of Hawaii; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the initial staff necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve and its programs. Eff. 3/14/2019.
(SD1)

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