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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of  
2 land and natural resources (DLNR) protects about 1,300,000 acres  
3 of public lands in forests, parks, and outdoor recreation areas,  
4 and 3,000,000 acres of state ocean waters, coasts, fisheries,  
5 and boating areas. The division of conservation and resources  
6 enforcement (DOCARE) patrols the majority of DLNR lands and  
7 enforces the laws that manage, protect, and conserve Hawaii's  
8 natural resources for the 1,400,000 residents and 8,000,000  
9 visitors that utilize these areas annually.

10           The legislature further finds that the large quantity, high  
11 usage, and geographic distribution of Hawaii public lands and  
12 water present DOCARE with consistent challenges related to  
13 providing effective and timely enforcement activities on a  
14 limited budget. The legislature supports DLNR and DOCARE in  
15 exploring creative methods to leverage technology and engage  
16 local communities to support the conservation of protected



1 areas, and one such solution is the DOCARE DLNRTip app, which  
2 launched in June 2017.

3 DOCARE DLNRTip app is a free, smartphone-based application  
4 that allows community members to anonymously report violations  
5 on public lands to DLNR. When submitting a tip, a user includes  
6 the subject, location, and any helpful photos or videos of the  
7 violation. The DOCARE DLNRTip app's strengths include the  
8 ability to quickly report illegal acts, anonymity, and  
9 accessibility to anyone. However, the DOCARE DLNRTip app  
10 suffers from the absence of backend database management and  
11 analytics processing. The legislature finds that additional  
12 funding is needed to enable database management and analytics  
13 processing to address the DOCARE DLNRTip app's existing  
14 weaknesses and enhance DLNR's ability to efficiently enforce  
15 violations.

16 The legislature aims to increase information and statistics  
17 reported to DOCARE about criminal activity within the State via  
18 the advent of a comprehensive data reporting and analytics  
19 system through the DOCARE DLNRTip app. A proper data management  
20 and processing system would enable DOCARE to more efficiently  
21 track and monitor crime in specific areas and allocate limited



1 conservation and enforcement resources to high-risk areas. This  
2 would reduce crimes such as misuse of state lands, violations of  
3 wildlife species conservation laws and oceanic recreation laws,  
4 and other crimes under DLNR jurisdiction.

5 The purpose of this Act is to enhance the DOCARE DLNRTip  
6 app by providing funding for a DOCARE DLNRTip app administrator  
7 position and software upgrades and app enhancements.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$125,000 or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2020-2021 to be allocated as follows:

- 13 (1) \$100,000 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
14 DLNRTip app administrator position; and
- 15 (2) \$25,000 for DLNRTip app software upgrades and app  
16 enhancements, such as geotagging, two-way messaging,  
17 data analysis, and emergency alerts.

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

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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**Report Title:**

Conservation and Resources Enforcement; DLNRTip App;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for one DOCARE DLNRTip app administrator position and software upgrades and app enhancements to improve the DLNRTip app. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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