
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORESTRY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under the Hawaii
2 sustainability initiative, the State of Hawaii has committed to
3 integrated sustainability goals, including increasing the
4 State's climate resiliency, as well as supporting and increasing
5 local food production.

6 The legislature finds that numerous sources, both
7 internationally and nationally, have recognized the importance
8 of healthy soils as a critical resource for supplying food
9 security, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate
10 resiliency. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization
11 of the United Nations, nations around the world, and other
12 agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture,
13 celebrated 2015 as the International Year of Soils to highlight
14 the necessity of healthy soil for food security and ecosystem
15 resilience against climate change. Similarly, recognizing the
16 importance of healthy soil to climate resiliency and food
17 security, many states around the country have launched



1 initiatives to incentivize building soil organic matter and
2 improving soil health.

3 The legislature finds that trees have an important function
4 in improving soil health and building climate resiliency for
5 Hawaii's environment, including its agricultural landscapes.
6 The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the
7 United States Department of Agriculture, has identified
8 agroforestry as a unique land management approach that
9 intentionally blends agriculture and forestry to enhance
10 productivity, profitability, and environmental stewardship.

11 According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
12 the strategic planting of trees in agricultural landscapes may
13 increase crop yield, improve soil health, provide habitat for
14 wildlife, and provide a variety of other benefits.

15 The division of forestry and wildlife of the department of
16 land and natural resources manages a state tree nursery that
17 aims to provide high quality native, endangered, and windbreak
18 trees and plants for the public and department of land and
19 natural resources plantings and reforestation projects.

20 The legislature further finds that there is a need to
21 update and expand the resources available to the state tree



1 nursery, including by increasing the available selections of
2 trees and plants that provide beneficial functions in
3 agricultural production.

4 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
5 forest stewardship program to increase the existing plant
6 stocks, invest in public outreach, and renovate the equipment
7 and facilities of the state tree nursery.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
11 the forest stewardship program to:

- 12 (1) Work in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders,
- 13 including but not limited to the greenhouse gas
- 14 sequestration taskforce, researchers from the college
- 15 of tropical agriculture and human resources of the
- 16 university of Hawaii, and the United States Department
- 17 of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service,
- 18 to expand and increase the existing plant stocks of
- 19 the state tree nursery to include a wider range of
- 20 native trees and plant species identified by the
- 21 division of forestry and wildlife to be beneficial in



1 agricultural settings for improving agricultural
2 productivity and improving soil health;

3 (2) Renovate and update the equipment and facilities of
4 the state tree nursery to expand its capacity to
5 provide clean planting materials for a variety of
6 public and private projects; and

7 (3) Use for public outreach and education regarding the
8 benefits of trees and plants in providing soil health
9 and the appropriate uses of trees and plants in
10 agricultural settings.

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

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



Report Title:

Forestry; Tree Nursery; DLNR; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the forest stewardship program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to increase plant stocks, invest in public outreach, and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nursery. Effective 7/1/2050.
(SD2)

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