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# 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 has committed to integrated  
3 sustainability goals, including increasing the State's climate  
4 resiliency, as well as supporting and increasing local food  
5 production.

6           The legislature further finds that numerous sources, both  
7 internationally and nationally, have recognized the importance  
8 of healthy soil 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, in recognition of  
16 the 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 also finds that trees have an important  
4 function in improving soil health and building climate  
5 resiliency for Hawaii's environment, including its agricultural  
6 landscapes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a  
7 division of the United States Department of Agriculture, has  
8 identified agroforestry as a unique land management approach  
9 that 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 four state tree nurseries  
17 that aim to provide high-quality native, endangered, and  
18 windbreak trees and plants for the public and department of land  
19 and natural resources plantings and reforestation projects.

20       The legislature further finds that there is a need to build  
21 and expand facilities at state tree nurseries.



1           The legislature further finds that various tree nurseries  
 2 across the State need new or expanded greenhouses, as well as  
 3 facilities to sanitize seedlings leaving the nurseries to  
 4 prevent spread of invasive diseases, including the Waimea-  
 5 Kamuela state tree nursery meant to service large-scale projects  
 6 statewide, the Maui, Kauai, and Oahu District Nurseries, and the  
 7 Kauai district mid-elevation rare plant nursery.

8           The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of  
 9 general obligation bonds for the forest stewardship program to  
 10 build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries.

11           SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
 12 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$                    or so much  
 13 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
 14 as may be necessary is appropriated for the 2021-2023 fiscal  
 15 biennium for the purpose of the forest stewardship program to  
 16 build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries to  
 17 increase the capacity to provide clean planting materials.

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

20           SECTION 3. The appropriation made for the capital  
 21 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at



1 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
2 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
3 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Forestry; Tree Nursery; Forest Stewardship Program; DLNR; GO Bonds

**Description:**

Authorizes general obligation bonds for the forest stewardship program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

