
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TREE PLANTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that trees provide a
2 myriad of benefits, including reducing climate change, purifying
3 the air, cooling streets, providing a natural form of air
4 conditioning, saving water by preventing excess evaporation,
5 preventing water runoff by helping rainwater enter the soil,
6 providing habitats for wildlife, reinforcing the soil, and
7 controlling erosion.

8 The legislature further finds that pursuing educational
9 programs and projects that promote environmental protection,
10 biodiversity, and climate change mitigation helps students to
11 cultivate socially responsible and conscious citizenry.

12 The legislature believes that a program involving students
13 planting trees will not only help to protect the environment and
14 improve Hawaii, but will also develop environmentally conscious
15 adults.

16 The purpose of this Act is to promote the various benefits
17 of trees by establishing a pilot program to allow certain



1 students to receive graduation credit for planting trees and
2 learning about the environment.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall
4 establish a legacy tree planting pilot program. The pilot
5 program shall:

- 6 (1) Be conducted by one intermediate school or high school
7 within each department of education district, to be
8 selected by the superintendent of education;
- 9 (2) Be available to intermediate students in grades seven
10 and eight and to all students in high schools selected
11 pursuant to paragraph (1);
- 12 (3) Be incorporated as an optimal activity within the
13 existing science curriculum or established as a
14 separate optional course that can be used to fulfill a
15 science requirement for a student in grade seven or
16 eight to advance to the next grade or to help a
17 student in grade nine to twelve fulfill a graduation
18 requirement to complete a science course;
- 19 (4) Require each participating student to plant at least
20 ten trees and care for those trees; and



1 (5) Include instruction on the importance of the urban
2 canopy, climate change, and restoration reforestation
3 with indigenous trees.

4 (b) The department of education may coordinate the
5 planting of the trees with the other departments or nonprofit
6 organizations.

7 (c) The planted species of trees in the pilot program
8 shall be appropriate for the location, climate, and topography;
9 provided that preference shall be given to tree species that are
10 indigenous to Hawaii.

11 (d) The pilot program shall cease to exist at the end of
12 the 2026-2027 school year.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2022-2023 for the legacy tree planting pilot program
18 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of education for the purposes of this Act.

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



H.B. NO. 410
H.D. 1

Report Title:

DOE; Tree Planting; Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to establish a legacy tree planting pilot program for certain public school students for graduation credit. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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2021-1471 HB410 HD1 HMSO

