

JAN 27 2021

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
21 repair, update, and expand the resources available to the state



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

4 The legislature further finds that various tree nurseries
5 across the State need facilities or improvements. The Waimea-
6 Kamuela state tree nursery is the largest facility, meant to
7 service large scale projects statewide. The facility requires a
8 greenhouse, irrigation, and seed cleaner system to ensure
9 seedling sanitation to resume statewide supply, which has been
10 halted over concerns over seedling exposure to surrounding
11 invasive species in a windy location. The Maui and Kauai
12 district nurseries also require greenhouses and irrigation.
13 While the Kauai district mid-elevation rare plant nursery needs
14 water catchment and expansion of the greenhouse. The Oahu
15 district nursesey requires a storage shed, access ramp, and
16 construction of a structure for plant processing.

17 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of
18 general obligation bonds for the forest stewardship program to
19 increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach,
20 and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree
21 nurseries.



1 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
2 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$1,380,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
4 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2021-2022
5 for the purpose of the forest stewardship program to:

6 (1) Work in collaboration with appropriate stakeholders,
7 including but not limited to the greenhouse gas
8 sequestration task force, researchers from the college
9 of tropical agriculture and human resources of the
10 university of Hawaii, and the United States Department
11 of Agriculture National Resource Conservation Service,
12 to expand and increase the existing plant stocks of
13 the state tree nurseries to include a wider range of
14 native trees and plant species identified by the
15 division of forestry and wildlife to be beneficial in
16 agricultural settings for improving agricultural
17 productivity and improving soil health;

18 (2) Renovate and update the equipment and facilities of
19 the state tree nurseries to expand their capacity to
20 provide clean planting materials for a variety of
21 public and private projects; and



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1 (3) Use for public outreach and education regarding the
2 benefits of trees and plants in providing soil health
3 and the appropriate uses of trees and plants in
4 agricultural settings.

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

7 SECTION 3. The appropriation made for the capital
8 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
9 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
10 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
11 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Jessie L. Frayze*



S.B. NO. 999

Report Title:

Forestry; Tree Nursery; Forest Stewardship Program; Department of Land and Natural Resources; GO Bonds

Description:

Authorizes general obligation bonds 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 nurseries.

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