
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, and supporting and increasing local food production.
5 The legislature further finds that numerous sources, both
6 internationally and nationally, have recognized the importance
7 of healthy soil as a critical resource for supplying food
8 security, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate
9 resiliency. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization
10 of the United Nations, nations around the world, and other
11 agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture,
12 celebrated 2015 as the International Year of Soils to highlight
13 the necessity of healthy soil for food security and ecosystem
14 resilience against climate change. Similarly, in recognition of
15 the importance of healthy soil to climate resiliency and food
16 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, the
12 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 legislature finds that the division of forestry and
16 wildlife of the department of land and natural resources manages
17 four state tree nurseries that aim to provide high quality
18 native, endangered, and windbreak trees and plants for the
19 public and department of land and natural resources plantings
20 and reforestation projects.



1 The legislature further finds that there is a need to
2 repair, update, and expand the resources available to the state
3 tree nurseries. The Waimea-Kamuela state tree nursery is the
4 State's largest facility, meant to service large scale projects
5 statewide. This facility requires a greenhouse, irrigation, and
6 seed cleaner system to ensure seedling sanitation to resume its
7 supply statewide, which has been halted over concerns over
8 seedling exposure to surrounding invasive species in a windy
9 location. The Maui and Kauai district nurseries also require
10 greenhouses and irrigation. Specifically, the Kauai district's
11 mid-elevation rare plant nursery needs a water catchment system
12 and expansion of its greenhouse. The Oahu district nursery
13 requires a storage shed, access ramp, and construction of a
14 structure for plant processing.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the
16 issuance of general obligation bonds for the forest stewardship
17 program to renovate the equipment and facilities of the state
18 tree nurseries.

19 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
20 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$1,380,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof



1 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2021-2022
2 for the purpose of the forest stewardship program to renovate
3 and update the equipment and facilities of the state tree
4 nurseries to expand their capacity to provide clean planting
5 materials for a variety of public and private projects.

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

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

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



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 renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nurseries. (SD1)

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