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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's government  
2 should operate as efficiently as possible to make the best use  
3 of government resources, personnel, and taxpayer dollars as it  
4 works to achieve the policy goals enacted by the legislature on  
5 behalf of the people of Hawaii. However, natural resource and  
6 environmental management is split among many departments and  
7 agencies, often leading to inefficiencies. For example, the use  
8 and protection of water resources is scattered among the  
9 environmental health administration and the clean water branch  
10 of the department of health, the division of aquatic resources,  
11 the commission on water resource management, the office of  
12 conservation and coastal lands, the division of boating and  
13 ocean recreation of the department of land and natural  
14 resources, and the coastal zone management program of the office  
15 of planning of the department of business, economic development  
16 and tourism, to name a few.



1           The legislature also finds that several departments also  
2 suffer from internal conflicts of interest, including the  
3 department of land and natural resources, which is tasked to  
4 both preserve Hawaii's public lands as well as make them  
5 available for other purposes.

6           The legislature further finds that because the scope and  
7 mission of some departments is so broad, directors must  
8 prioritize their requests for resources. Inevitably, some  
9 programs and services outside a department's core mission are  
10 left behind. These programs and services may be a better fit in  
11 another department where they take a higher priority.

12           In addition, modern critical issues such as climate change  
13 necessitate action by many departments, and responsibility is  
14 spread among many. It is sometimes unclear which departments  
15 will take the lead and which will be responsible for using their  
16 limited resources to tackle these challenges.

17           The legislature finds that in 1984, the legislature adopted  
18 Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 135 and House Concurrent  
19 Resolution No. 78, requesting the legislative reference bureau  
20 to conduct a study of establishing a state environmental  
21 protection agency, department, or comparable body to coordinate



1 and addressing matters of environmental quality. In 1985, the  
2 legislative reference bureau released a study "The Feasibility  
3 of Environmental Reorganization for Hawaii," which, in part,  
4 discussed the creation of a state department of environmental  
5 protection.

6 The legislature further finds that Act 293, Session Laws of  
7 Hawaii 1991, temporarily placed a department of environmental  
8 protection in the Hawaii Revised Statutes; however the Act also  
9 provided for its repeal on July 1, 1992, if the legislature  
10 failed to enact a bill establishing the powers, duties, and  
11 other provisions of the department of environmental protection  
12 during the regular session of 1992. The department of  
13 environmental protection task force report, in response to Act  
14 293, found that while there was consensus that a department of  
15 environmental protection should be established, the task force  
16 could not reach consensus on the strategy regarding the overall  
17 establishment of the department. The legislature was not able  
18 to enact a law establishing the powers, duties, and other  
19 provisions of the department of environmental protection, and  
20 thus, Act 293 was repealed.



1           The purpose of this Act is to update the 1985 study "The  
2 Feasibility of Environmental Reorganization for Hawaii" and to  
3 assess the feasibility of implementing findings and  
4 recommendations.

5           SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall  
6 update its study "The Feasibility of Environmental  
7 Reorganization for Hawaii" and assess the feasibility of  
8 implementing the findings and recommendations of the department  
9 of environmental protection task force.

10           (b) The legislative reference bureau may contract the  
11 services of another entity to perform any related services that  
12 may be required pursuant to this Act. Any contract for services  
13 executed pursuant to this Act shall be exempt from chapter 103D,  
14 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

15           (c) The legislative reference bureau shall submit the  
16 updated study to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
17 to the convening of the regular session of 2016.

18           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the  
21 purposes of this Act.

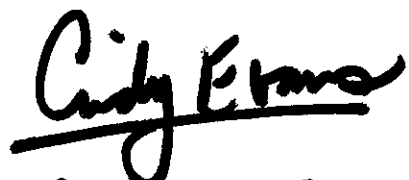


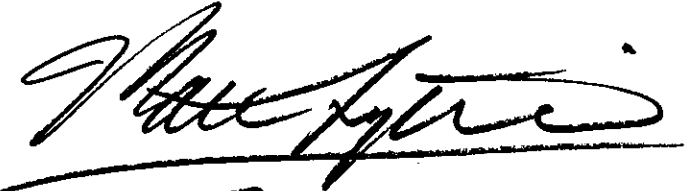
1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislative  
2 reference bureau for the purposes of this Act.

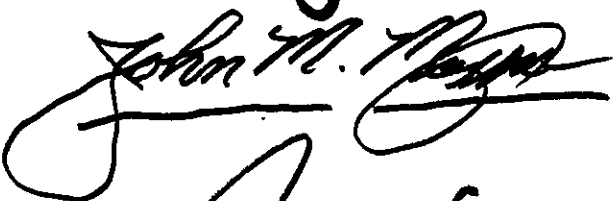
3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

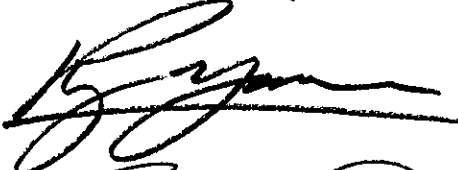
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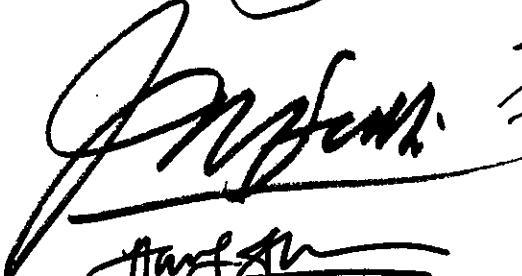
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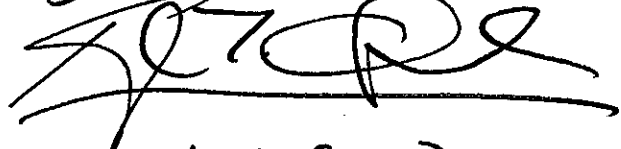


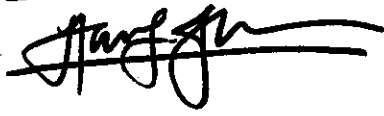




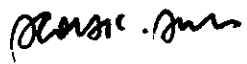








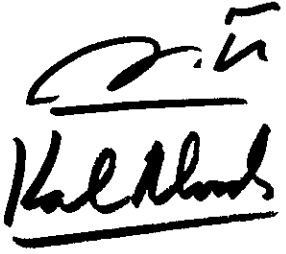




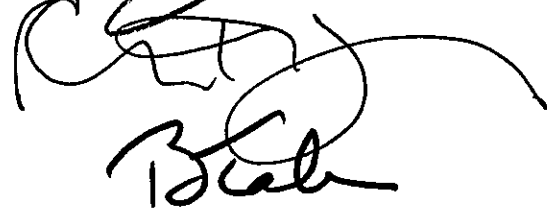














# H.B. NO. 1086

**Report Title:**

Department of the Environment; Update LRB Study; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires LRB to update its 1985 study on environmental reorganization for Hawaii and assess the feasibility of implementing the findings and recommendations of 1992 department of environmental protection task force. Makes an appropriation.

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

