
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAWAIIAN PLANTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of Hawaiian
2 plants in landscaping is fundamental to preserving and fostering
3 a Hawaiian sense of place in our neighborhoods and communities.
4 Historically, each island, moku, and ahupua'a supported varied
5 and diverse Hawaiian plant life. The connections between
6 certain areas and certain plants hold cultural significance and
7 reflect an ecological balance achieved through long-term
8 adaptation to specific local environments.

9 The relatively recent influx of non-native plant species
10 and invasive plant species has transformed Hawai'i's urban and
11 natural environment. Some invasive plants have displaced and
12 endangered Hawai'i's native plants and animals. Notably, state
13 landscaping projects have continued to utilize and propagate
14 some of these more recently introduced plants, notwithstanding
15 the importance of Hawaiian plants to biodiversity, ecological
16 stability, and a cultural sense of place.



1 Accordingly, the legislature finds that publicly funded
 2 landscaping should embody the cultural and ecological heritage
 3 of the place in which the landscaping is located, through the
 4 use of Hawaiian plants associated with each project area. The
 5 legislature further finds that a place-based approach to
 6 landscaping on the local level is important and desirable for
 7 cultural preservation, biodiversity, biosecurity, and ecosystem
 8 management.

9 The purpose of this Act is to amend the state public
 10 procurement code to require that all publicly funded landscaping
 11 projects include a minimum percentage of Hawaiian plants, in
 12 order to contribute to a Hawaiian sense of place, to reduce the
 13 use of non-native invasive plant species, and to support the
 14 preservation of Hawai'i's cultural and ecological heritage.

15 SECTION 2. Section 103D-408, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 16 amended to read as follows:

17 " [†] §103D-408 [‡] ~~Indigenous and Polynesian introduced~~
 18 Hawaiian plants; use in public landscaping. (a) ~~[Wherever and~~
 19 ~~whenever feasible,]~~ Subject to exceptions as established under
 20 subsection (d), and pursuant to the timetable described in
 21 subsection (c), all plans, designs, and specifications for new



1 or renovated landscaping of any building, complex of buildings,
2 facility, complex of facilities, or housing developed by the
3 State with public moneys shall incorporate [~~indigenous land~~
4 ~~plant species as defined in section 195D-2, and plant species~~
5 ~~brought to Hawaii by Polynesians before European contact, such~~
6 ~~as the kukui, noni, and coconut;~~] Hawaiian plants; provided
7 that:

8 (1) Suitable cultivated plants can be made available for
9 this purpose without jeopardizing wild plants in their
10 natural habitat; and

11 (2) Wherever and whenever possible, [~~indigenous~~] Hawaiian
12 plants shall be used for landscaping on, and sourced
13 from, the island [or islands on] and ahupua'a in which
14 the species [originated.] was found or known to occur
15 prior to European contact.

16 (b) Each plant or group of plants used pursuant to
17 subsection (a) shall be clearly identified with signs for the
18 edification of the general public.

19 (c) The timetable for the incorporation of Hawaiian plants
20 pursuant to subsection (a) shall be as follows:



1 (1) By January 1, 2019, Hawaiian plants shall constitute a
2 combined minimum of ten per cent of the total plant
3 footprint for landscaping plans, designs, and
4 specifications;

5 (2) By January 1, 2025, Hawaiian plants shall constitute a
6 combined minimum of twenty-five per cent of the total
7 plant footprint for landscaping plans, designs, and
8 specifications;

9 (3) By January 1, 2030, Hawaiian plants shall constitute a
10 combined minimum of thirty-five per cent of the total
11 plant footprint for landscaping plans, designs, and
12 specifications.

13 (d) Notwithstanding chapter 91, the head of the purchasing
14 agency may determine exceptions to the requirements of
15 subsection (a) using procedures, standards, or guidelines
16 established by the policy board. The policy board may adopt
17 rules pursuant to chapter 91 to establish the procedures,
18 standards, or guidelines for determining exceptions to
19 subsection (a).

20 (e) For purposes of this section, "Hawaiian plants" means
21 any plant species, including land, freshwater, and marine plant



1 species, growing or living in Hawaii without having been brought
2 to Hawaii by humans; or any plant species, including land,
3 freshwater, and marine plant species, brought to Hawaii by
4 Polynesians before European contact, such as kukui, kalo, wauke,
5 niu, noni, and kamani."

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall not be applied so as to impair
7 any contract existing as of the effective date of this Act in a
8 manner violative of either the Hawaii State Constitution or
9 article I, section 10, of the United States Constitution.

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

OHA Package; Hawaii Plants; Public Landscaping

Description:

Subject to exceptions, requires all plans, designs, and specifications for new or renovated landscaping of State-developed buildings, complexes, facilities, or housing to incorporate Hawaiian plants. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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