
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that green infrastructure
2 is an approach to managing weather impacts that also delivers
3 environmental, social, climate, and economic benefits. Green
4 infrastructure planning aims to create a strategic network of
5 natural and semi-natural areas that protect and maintain
6 ecosystems in both urban and rural areas. Importantly, green
7 infrastructure can also be the basis of a smart growth approach
8 to development that cost effectively protects natural areas
9 while creating more sustainable communities.

10 Green infrastructure functions as a complement to "grey"
11 infrastructure, like pipelines and sewers. Green infrastructure
12 reduces and treats stormwater at its source and can maintain and
13 renew watersheds that host urban centers. Green infrastructure
14 practices, like green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavement,
15 and vegetation median strips, can provide solutions to
16 stormwater runoff at the neighborhood level.



1 The creation of green infrastructure plans at the state
2 level can generate strategies to enhance and preserve parks,
3 agriculture, forest lands, and coastal areas. State green
4 infrastructure plans can also identify where the State can save
5 on water management costs, decrease pollution, lower flooding
6 risks, and address climate change.

7 Currently, there is no defined system to determine the most
8 effective use of green infrastructure in Hawaii. Without green
9 infrastructure planning, the State risks losing valuable
10 opportunities to cost effectively preserve the State's
11 environment and increase quality of life for residents.

12 The legislature finds that a holistic and comprehensive
13 green infrastructure study and plan will be of great benefit to
14 the State and its environment. The legislature also finds that
15 the state sustainability coordinator of the office of planning
16 is well-positioned to undertake and coordinate activities
17 relating to green infrastructure planning and development and to
18 work with various stakeholders and the public to further the
19 State's sustainability goals.

20 The purpose of this Act is to require and appropriate funds
21 for the state sustainability coordinator to complete a holistic



1 and comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure
2 opportunities in the State.

3 SECTION 2. The state sustainability coordinator shall
4 complete a holistic and comprehensive study and plan for green
5 infrastructure opportunities in the State. The study shall:

6 (1) Identify green infrastructure opportunities in the
7 State at the state, regional, and neighborhood levels,
8 including any related costs and savings;

9 (2) Identify green infrastructure planning and development
10 best practices at the state, regional, and
11 neighborhood levels for potential application in the
12 State, including financing and community engagement
13 practices;

14 (3) Complete a plan that details how the State can move
15 forward to cost effectively take advantage of
16 identified opportunities, including any related costs
17 and savings; and

18 (4) Identify any legal or regulatory changes that will be
19 needed to execute on the completed plan.

20 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
2 state sustainability coordinator to complete a holistic and
3 comprehensive green infrastructure study and plan for the State.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of
6 this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 28, 2045.



Report Title:

Green Infrastructure Study and Plan; Office of Planning;
Sustainability Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the State Sustainability Coordinator to
complete a comprehensive green infrastructure study and plan.
(HB2545 HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

