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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is a unique  
2 and beautiful lei of islands amidst the Pacific Ocean and the  
3 only Pacific island state. For many it is the ideal place to  
4 live and has been second to none for providing a preferred  
5 quality of life. It is the government's responsibility to  
6 identify the goals of the State that are important for present  
7 and future generations, to improve and maintain the quality of  
8 life for individuals and communities and the quality and  
9 sustainability of the islands for residents and visitors alike.  
10 Preserving Hawaii's values is the unifying theme of the Hawaii  
11 state plan, established pursuant to chapter 226, Hawaii Revised  
12 Statutes, which is intended to preserve and protect the healthy  
13 social, economic, and physical environments that benefit the  
14 community as a whole.

15           The Hawaii state plan states as one of its three goals: "A  
16 desired physical environment, characterized by beauty,  
17 cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that



1 enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people".

2 Pursuant to sections 226-11 through 226-13, Hawaii Revised

3 Statutes, the state plan objectives and policies for the

4 physical environment include planning to protect:

5 (1) Land-based, shoreline, and marine resources;

6 (2) Scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources; and

7 (3) Land, air, and water quality.

8 The Hawaii state plan also sets priority guidelines for planning

9 for population growth and land resources, including

10 identification of critical environmental areas in Hawaii.

11 Critical environmental areas include scenic and recreational

12 shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and

13 cultural sites, and scenic resources.

14 The legislature further finds that the lei of green, a

15 long-standing policy to link green parks, open space, recreation

16 areas, and greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline,

17 interconnected with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and

18 climate control, was first brought forth by the renowned

19 national planner Lewis Mumford to benefit the Territory of

20 Hawaii. The lei of green was further emphasized by the Hawaii

21 chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1999



1 and incorporated as a guiding principle in the Kakaako makai  
2 master plan by the Hawaii community development authority in  
3 2011. The legislature finds that a successful example of the  
4 lei of green policy is the lei of parks, green recreational open  
5 spaces and historic landscapes along Honolulu's shoreline from  
6 Diamond Head to Aloha Tower.

7 The legislature further finds that there is a need for  
8 coordination among different agencies and levels of government  
9 in guiding the future of the State to ensure the long-continued  
10 and intended protection and preservation of the lei of green,  
11 consisting of public parks and green recreational open spaces as  
12 an interconnected multi-use system.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Include objectives, policies, and implementation  
15 guidelines for the lei of green in the Hawaii State  
16 Planning Act; and
- 17 (2) Appropriate funds to the office of planning to prepare  
18 a status report on the lei of green, as required by  
19 this Act.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§226-A Objectives and policies for the physical  
5 environment-lei of green. (a) Planning for the State's  
6 physical environment with regard to the lei of green shall be  
7 directed toward achieving the objectives of:

8 (1) Protection and preservation of green public parks and  
9 recreational open spaces within the lei of green;

10 (2) Expansion of greenways and shoreline promenades  
11 interconnecting green public recreational open spaces,  
12 public parks, and historic landscapes within the lei  
13 of green along the shoreline, mauka to makai;

14 (3) Restoration, protection, expansion, and preservation  
15 of the intrinsic elements of the lei of green,  
16 including large shade canopy trees to mitigate climate  
17 change; and

18 (4) Protection of the lei of green resources for the  
19 immediate future and perpetuation of the lei of green  
20 to benefit the public as an environmental legacy for  
21 present and future generations.



1           (b) For the purposes of this section:

2           "Greenways" means a system of corridors of land or water  
3 that connect and protect the natural, historic, cultural, and  
4 recreational resources within the surrounding landscape and  
5 communities.

6           "Historic landscape" means any park, recreational, or  
7 cultural green open space listed on or eligible for the Hawaii  
8 register of historic places.

9           "Lei of green" means the area of public parks, historic  
10 landscapes, green recreational open spaces, and connecting  
11 greenways and shoreline promenades along the island shoreline  
12 mauka to makai."

13           SECTION 3. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
15 designated and to read as follows:

16           "§226-B Lei of green. (a) The office shall implement the  
17 lei of green policy, in coordination with appropriate state and  
18 county departments. The office shall strive to:

19           (1) Ensure that the lei of green policy is a respected  
20 guide for the restoration, protection, and  
21 preservation of the anchor elements of the lei of



1           green, including its public parks and historic  
2           landscapes, green recreational open spaces, and  
3           connecting greenways and shoreline promenades; and  
4           (2) Work closely with the county and the public to  
5           implement the policy for state and county lands within  
6           the lei of green.

7           (b) For the purposes of this section:

8           "Greenways" shall have the same meaning as in section  
9           226-A.

10           "Historic landscape" shall have the same meaning as in  
11           section 226-A.

12           "Lei of green" shall have the same meaning as in section  
13           226-A."

14           SECTION 4. The office of planning shall submit a report to  
15 the legislature and the governor of its findings and  
16 recommendations on the status of the lei of green policy,  
17 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days  
18 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022. The  
19 report shall provide benchmarks as necessary to assist  
20 incremental compliance with fulfilling and completing the lei of  
21 green plan for each island.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for costs  
4 associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the  
5 status report on the lei of green policy required pursuant to  
6 section 4 of this Act.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of  
8 planning for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section  
10 2 and 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
11 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
12 the new sections in this Act.

13 SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



S.B. NO. 3171  
S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Green Environment; State Plan; Lei of Green;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. Appropriates funds for costs associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the status report on the lei of green policy. (SD1)

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