
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREEN FEES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that each year, Hawaii's
2 reefs, oceans, beaches, and forests provide billions of dollars
3 in value to the economy, supporting the well-being of our
4 communities and visitors alike. Hawaii cannot disentangle its
5 environment from its economy. Therefore, residents and visitors
6 understand the value and importance of Hawaii's natural
7 resources. Inseparable from the culture of Hawaii, Hawaii's
8 environment is integral to the experiences of residents and
9 visitors.

10 The legislature also finds that although these natural
11 resources are critical for the visitor industry and resident
12 communities, Hawaii's total natural resources management funding
13 constitutes a major unfunded liability that poses a significant
14 risk to the business climate and the economic resiliency of the
15 State.

16 The legislature further finds that the State's vital
17 ecosystems and the resources they harbor continue to decline,



1 due to lack of adequate investment in proven and effective
2 conservation approaches. Data demonstrates growing concern that
3 the lack of adequate plans to address the multitude of issues
4 contributes to the continued decline to Hawaii's environment.

5 Ten million visitors enjoyed the benefits of Hawaii's
6 ecosystem and natural environment in 2019, and the number of
7 visitors is expected to rise in the future. Increased demand on
8 Hawaii's natural resources requires innovative conservation
9 plans and programs focused on reversing the decline in
10 ecosystems and the associated risks for Hawaii's visitor
11 industry and communities; such as the innovative financing
12 mechanism of green fees and other assessments to address funding
13 natural resource management and climate change mitigation.

14 By prioritizing the protection of Hawaii's ocean, forest,
15 and freshwater ecosystems and following the benchmarks set forth
16 in the Aloha+ Challenge natural resource management goals, the
17 legislature seeks to better understand how the governor's
18 administration, state departments and agencies, and their
19 private partners are working together to set forth plans to
20 accomplish climate change goals of the State.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for a study
2 to identify the current plans, programs, funding sequences and
3 plans, and allocations of state revenue in place to achieve the
4 Aloha+ Challenge natural resource management goals.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The office of planning shall conduct a
6 study that includes but is not limited to the following:

7 (1) Identification of:

8 (A) Current plans and programs established to meet
9 the Aloha+ Challenge natural resource management
10 2030 goals;

11 (B) Investments focused on protecting Hawaii's ocean,
12 forest, and freshwater ecosystems to ensure the
13 perpetuation of the resources and resilience to
14 climate change;

15 (C) Current sources of funding; and

16 (D) Priority areas where natural resources are in
17 extreme threat;

18 (2) An analysis and breakdown of Hawaii's conservation
19 funding gap that exists in current natural resource
20 management funding relative to meeting the needs and
21 priorities identified in the Aloha+ Challenge natural



- 1 resource management 2030 goals and the extent to which
2 Hawaii's unfunded conservation liabilities will
3 increase based on the current rate of funding;
- 4 (3) An analysis and review of the current utilization and
5 effectiveness of natural resource management funding
6 throughout state departments and agencies;
- 7 (4) An examination of all existing tax and fee structures
8 that exist to support natural resource management
9 efforts, including all sources of funding and
10 allocation of the funds to address the Aloha+
11 Challenge natural resource management 2030 goals;
- 12 (5) An examination of all existing tax and fee structures
13 placed on residents and visitors, including an
14 estimated per resident and per visitor annual
15 contributions;
- 16 (6) An analysis and recommendations on the existing
17 funding structures and the advantages or disadvantages
18 of increasing, decreasing, or reallocating existing
19 taxes and fees relative to addressing the funding
20 needs to achieve the Aloha+ Challenge natural resource
21 management 2030 goals;



- 1 (7) An analysis of all innovative financing mechanisms
2 that will ensure the most effective management of
3 funds and result in use of revenues collected for the
4 specific purposes of this Act, such as green fees and
5 other assessments to address funding natural resource
6 management and climate change mitigation;
- 7 (8) Identification of potential short-term and long-term
8 impacts on Hawaii's tourism industry, including
9 possible market impacts and economic and workforce
10 considerations; and
- 11 (9) Development of a seven-year achievement plan with the
12 recommendation of funding sources to begin no later
13 than July 1, 2022, including proposed funding sources,
14 benchmarks, indicators, and mandatory impact
15 reporting.
- 16 (b) The office of planning, in consultation with the
17 Hawaii tourism authority, department of business, economic
18 development, and tourism, and department of land and natural
19 resources, shall engage with stakeholders and industry leaders,
20 including but not limited to:
- 21 (1) The director of finance;



- 1 (2) The director of taxation;
- 2 (3) Representatives of other relevant state agencies;
- 3 (4) Representatives of business or industry groups whose
- 4 respective members would be affected by the
- 5 implementation of the plan;
- 6 (5) Representatives of non-governmental organizations
- 7 having an interest in climate change issues and
- 8 natural resource protection; or
- 9 (6) Other relevant parties necessary to assist in
- 10 fulfilling the Aloha+ Challenge natural resource
- 11 management 2030 goals.

12 (c) The office of planning shall submit an interim report
13 to the legislature of its progress, participants, findings,
14 recommendations, and timeline for completion of the plan no
15 later than December 31, 2020.

16 (d) The office of planning shall submit a final report to
17 the legislature of its progress, participants, findings, and
18 recommendations, including the implementation plan to achieve
19 the Aloha+ Challenge natural resource management 2030 goals, no
20 later than October 31, 2021.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for a
4 study to be conducted by the office of planning pursuant to
5 section 2 of this Act.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
7 planning for the purposes of this Act; provided that no funds
8 shall be made available under this Act unless the office of
9 planning obtains matching funds from the private sector for at
10 least fifty per cent of the cost of the study.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
12 2033.



Report Title:

Tourism; Aloha+ Challenge Natural Resource Management 2030 Goals Study; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the office of planning to conduct a study assessing the current plans and programs to achieve the Aloha+ Challenge natural resource management 2030 goals. Requires the office of planning to make recommendations in achieving those goals. Makes an appropriation. Effective 12/31/2033. (HD1)

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