
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORESTRY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under the Hawaii
2 sustainability initiative, the State has committed to integrated
3 sustainability goals, including increasing the State's climate
4 resiliency, as well as supporting and increasing local food
5 production.

6 The legislature further finds that numerous sources, both
7 internationally and nationally, have recognized the importance
8 of healthy soil as a critical resource for supplying food
9 security, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate
10 resiliency. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization
11 of the United Nations, nations around the world, and other
12 agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture,
13 celebrated 2015 as the International Year of Soils to highlight
14 the necessity of healthy soil for food security and ecosystem
15 resilience against climate change. Similarly, in recognition of
16 the importance of healthy soil to climate resiliency and food
17 security, many states around the country have launched



1 initiatives to incentivize building soil organic matter and
2 improving soil health.

3 The legislature also finds that trees have an important
4 function in improving soil health and building climate
5 resiliency for Hawaii's environment, including its agricultural
6 landscapes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a
7 division of the United States Department of Agriculture, has
8 identified agroforestry as a unique land management approach
9 that intentionally blends agriculture and forestry to enhance
10 productivity, profitability, and environmental stewardship.

11 According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
12 the strategic planting of trees in agricultural landscapes may
13 increase crop yield, improve soil health, provide habitat for
14 wildlife, and provide a variety of other benefits.

15 The division of forestry and wildlife of the department of
16 land and natural resources manages four state tree nurseries
17 that aim to provide high-quality native, endangered, and
18 windbreak trees and plants for the public and department of land
19 and natural resources plantings and reforestation projects.

20 The legislature further finds that there is a need to build
21 and expand facilities at state tree nurseries.



1 The legislature further finds that various tree nurseries
2 across the State need new or expanded greenhouses, as well as
3 facilities to sanitize seedlings leaving the nurseries to
4 prevent spread of invasive diseases, including the Waimea-
5 Kamuela state tree nursery meant to service large-scale projects
6 statewide, the Maui, Kauai, and Oahu district nurseries, and the
7 Kauai district mid-elevation rare plant nursery.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
9 forest stewardship program to build and expand facilities of the
10 state tree nurseries.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the funds received
12 by the State of Hawaii from the American Rescue Plan Act
13 of 2021, Public Law 117-2 (Section 9901), the sum of \$750,000 or
14 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022
15 for the purposes of this Act.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



Report Title:

Forestry; Tree Nursery; Forest Stewardship Program; DLNR;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the forest stewardship program of the department of land and natural resources to build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries. (CD1)

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