
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the knowledge and
2 skills necessary for sustainable resource management are lacking
3 throughout Hawaii. Soil science information used by engineers
4 and planners to design drainage, irrigation, waste, and other
5 systems does not accurately reflect current watershed trends or
6 site-specific conditions. The existing watershed management
7 system is woefully inadequate to keep Oahu communities informed
8 about and protected from all possible contaminants. Residents,
9 businesses, communities, and schools throughout Hawaii are
10 impacted by military operations, urban development, and
11 agricultural and conservation projects. For example, on Oahu,
12 watershed-wide and site-specific operations have resulted in
13 non-point source pollution at Lake Wilson, Kaukonahua Stream,
14 and Kaiaka Bay.

15 The current watershed management system requires major
16 upgrades before it can provide up-to-date, integrated,
17 island-wide management. The existing outdated system impedes
18 technology transfers and the free exchange of environmental data



1 between Oahu and other tropical regions, which would provide an
2 increasingly precise, comprehensive, international environmental
3 management system. In today's ever-changing, geo-physical
4 environment, with the dangers produced by environmental
5 disasters, septic run-off, and many other events, Hawaii cannot
6 afford to remain in its current state. Too often, those who
7 will be the most affected by any proposed development project or
8 operation lack the means to evaluate the extent of an
9 environmental impact that a project may produce. Sustainable
10 resource management will never occur on Oahu without resources
11 being monitored on a local level by trained and informed
12 residents. One way to tackle this problem is for the department
13 of education to provide the tools necessary for students and
14 residents to be stewards of their own communities by developing
15 effective plans and educational programs at local schools as
16 part of an environmental planning, monitoring, education, and
17 outreach network.

18 The purpose of this Act is to provide moneys to the
19 department of education for a two-year pilot program which will
20 develop and implement an environmental planning, monitoring,
21 education, and outreach network at Waialua intermediate and high
22 schools, in conjunction with local community groups, and the



1 University of Hawaii. This network will improve the existing
2 science curriculum, and promote school and community activities
3 to monitor local environmental conditions and prepare
4 conservation strategies. The primary objective of the pilot
5 program will be to the department shall be to develop and
6 implement program curricula and activities to provide students
7 and the community with the skills necessary to monitor impacts
8 of and to recommend locally-appropriate best management
9 practices for military, urban, agricultural, and conservation
10 operations on Oahu, in conjunction with the University of Hawaii
11 and local community groups.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§302A- Environmental planning, monitoring, education
16 and outreach network pilot program. (a) The department shall
17 establish a two-year environmental planning, monitoring,
18 education, and outreach network pilot program at Waialua
19 intermediate and high schools.

20 (b) The department shall:

21 (1) Develop and implement, in conjunction with the



1 University of Hawaii and local community groups,
2 program curricula and activities to provide students
3 and the community with the skills necessary to monitor
4 impacts of and to recommend locally-appropriate best
5 management practices for military, urban,
6 agricultural, and conservation operations on Oahu, and
7 employ instructors on a contract basis, with a
8 preference for instructors with a degree in a relevant
9 science or engineering field;

10 (2) Develop, in conjunction with the University of Hawaii
11 and local community groups, an island-wide process in
12 which the pilot program will work with other similar
13 programs to provide technical assistance to monitor
14 and assess the environmental impact of any development
15 projects in their areas;

16 (3) Implement an enhanced science curriculum that teaches
17 skills necessary to monitor local environmental
18 conditions and recommend conservation strategies;

19 (4) Promote school and community activities that emphasize
20 local environmental conditions and conservation
21 strategies;

22 (5) Convene a soil symposium on an annual basis;



HB 2571

Report Title:

DOE; Environmental Planning Education and Outreach Network

Description:

Establishes two-year DOE pilot program to develop school-based environmental planning, monitoring, education, and outreach network at Waialua intermediate and high schools in conjunction with the University of Hawaii and community groups. Makes appropriation.

