
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature acknowledges that developing
2 renewable energy projects and investing in sustainable energy
3 would benefit the State by decreasing its reliance on oil.

4 The legislature also finds that investments must be made,
5 not only in developing sustainable energy in the private and
6 government sectors, but by educating students and providing
7 educational initiatives that foster sustainability.

8 The University of Hawaii at Manoa campus has provided
9 leadership in sustainability and efficiency. The Sustainable
10 Saunders project has played a valuable role in reducing energy
11 use with the leadership of the faculty and students. By
12 extrapolating their efforts at Saunders Hall campus-wide the
13 University of Hawaii at Manoa could reduce its energy bill by a
14 minimum of \$2,000,000 over two years. Benefits could be
15 experienced throughout the community through outreach training
16 to other University of Hawaii campuses and other educational
17 facilities.

1 The University of Hawaii at Manoa uses approximately 3.2
2 times the amount of energy per square foot as the University of
3 California, Santa Barbara. If the University of Hawaii at Manoa
4 could achieve similar energy efficiency, the campus could save
5 over \$1,000,000 per month. Trained energy audit teams
6 comprising sustainability internship program interns could audit
7 all buildings on the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus,
8 aggregating savings campus-wide.

9 No cost and low cost energy efficient initiatives by the
10 Sustainable Saunders project have reduced energy use at Saunders
11 Hall by approximately thirty per cent, resulting in annual
12 savings to the State of approximately \$100,000. The application
13 of recommendations by the Sustainable Saunders project for the
14 Hamilton library, are expected to save the State more than
15 \$700,000 per year when implemented. The legislature finds that
16 an expenditure of funds to establish a sustainability internship
17 project is justified by the successful results obtained by the
18 Sustainable Saunders project and the expected energy cost
19 savings to the State in excess of the funds expended.

20 The legislature also finds that, in addition to lowering
21 the campus energy bill, a sustainability internship program will
22 train and provide paid work experience in sustainability

1 practices and principles. This program would promote the
2 retention of students by the University of Hawaii at Manoa, add
3 credibility and financial viability to students' sustainability
4 work, and generate supportive professional and academic networks
5 for green careers in Hawaii.

6 As a traditional commuter school, many students from the
7 University of Hawaii at Manoa support themselves with part-time
8 jobs unrelated to their campus life or their academic and
9 professional pursuits. A sustainability internship program
10 would provide opportunities for students to work with like-
11 minded individuals and remain engaged in campus life while
12 meeting their professional and financial needs. It would
13 produce an experienced, educated work force of the best and most
14 dedicated students for the State's fastest-growing economic
15 sectors. Future employers would have the opportunity to develop
16 long-term, a skilled work force, jobs, and job opportunities.
17 The University of Hawaii at Manoa would benefit by having the
18 type of program that gains national recognition.

19 The legislature further finds that sustainability
20 internship programs have proven successful at other university
21 campuses such as at Harvard University and the University of
22 California, Berkeley. Similar programs have also proven to be

1 financially self-sustaining after the first few years without
2 requiring additional expenditures of state funds.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
4 establish a sustainability internship program at the University
5 of Hawaii at Manoa as part of the Sustainable Saunders project.
6 The moneys will facilitate the employment of students each
7 semester with the goal of applying no cost to low cost energy
8 modification recommendations for application at the University
9 of Hawaii at Manoa, other campuses, and the general community.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$207,000 or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year of 2009-2010 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 of 2010-2011 to establish a sustainability internship program at
15 the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

16 SECTION 3. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the
17 University of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that
18 the University of Hawaii may fund the program through
19 alternative means, such as cost savings realized as a result of
20 the program or capital improvement projects that utilize energy
21 efficiency initiatives; provided further that if alternative

1 means of funding are used, any unexpended and unencumbered
2 balance of the appropriation shall lapse into the general fund.

3 SECTION 4. The University of Hawaii at Manoa
4 administration shall work with the Sustainable Saunders project
5 to identify alternative methods of funding the sustainability
6 internship program, such as through cost savings as a result of
7 the energy efficiency initiatives, or other means.

8 The University of Hawaii at Manoa shall report to the
9 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
10 the regular session of 2010 on any additional system-wide
11 savings generated as a result of energy efficiency initiatives
12 developed through the Sustainable Saunders project, and
13 recommendations for funding the sustainability internship
14 program through means other than general fund appropriations.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.

Report Title:

Education; University of Hawaii; Sustainability; Internship;
Environment

Description:

Makes an appropriation for the establishment of a sustainability
internship program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa;
requires the university to seek alternative funding for the
program and report to the 2010 legislature. (SD1)