
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LANAI WATERSHED.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of Lanai
2 is one of the least forested of the main Hawaiian islands, has a
3 relatively low amount of annual rainfall, and has a sustainable
4 yield from its aquifers of six million gallons per day. A 1995
5 study estimated that more than sixty-five per cent of Lanai's
6 primary aquifer's recharge comes from fog drip and that the loss
7 of fog drip from Lanaihale would lead to the loss of more than
8 fifty per cent of the water levels in the island's central
9 aquifer, which is the only viable water source for the island.
10 Studies indicate that fog-drip interception by mountain forests
11 increases precipitation by as much as thirty per cent and
12 recharge by ten to fifteen per cent. It is undisputed that the
13 forest contributes to fog drip and that the loss of forest cover
14 will alter precipitation and recharge of the aquifer.

15 The legislature finds that the execution of a watershed
16 management plan that includes the removal of feral ungulates
17 from Lanaihale, the control and removal of alien weeds, and the



1 protection of the native forest should be among the priorities
2 for the protection of this critical freshwater recharge area.

3 The purpose of this Act is to require that funding for the
4 watershed management plan for Lanaihale be provided from private
5 sources and available federal sources and to require the
6 department of land and natural resources to control and manage
7 implementation of the plan.

8 SECTION 2. Funding to implement the Lanaihale watershed
9 management plan shall be provided from private funding sources
10 and available federal funding sources, rather than state
11 financial resources; provided that this Act shall not diminish,
12 impair, or prohibit the encumbrance or expenditure of any state
13 funds appropriated for the implementation of the Lanaihale
14 watershed management plan prior to the effective date of this
15 Act.

16 The department of land and natural resources shall control
17 and manage implementation of the Lanaihale watershed management
18 plan.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Lanaihale Watershed Management Plan; Lanai

Description:

Requires private and available federal funding sources to implement the Lanaihale Watershed Management Plan. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to control and manage implementation of the Lanaihale Watershed Management Plan. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB1219 HD1)

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