
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. In September 2016, the International Union for
3 Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will hold the IUCN World
4 Conservation Congress in Hawaii, the first time it has been held
5 in the United States. As the world looks to Hawaii to
6 demonstrate leadership on conservation, the legislature finds
7 that the State of Hawaii can serve as a global model to showcase
8 sustainable management of natural resources from the summit to
9 the sea.

10 Through the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No.
11 69, S.D. 1 (2014), the legislature endorsed and supported a
12 shared statewide commitment to sustainability through the
13 integrated approach and targets of the Aloha+ Challenge to be
14 achieved by 2030.

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to directly
16 implement three of the six goals outlined in the Aloha+
17 Challenge: natural resource management, clean energy, and green



1 workforce development. Funding these targets is essential to
2 keep Hawaii's environment unique, improve the quality of life for
3 Hawaii's residents and visitors, and maintain important revenue
4 streams in Hawaii's economy. This Act will add local jobs and
5 green workforce training opportunities, essential to the overall
6 success of the Aloha+ Challenge.

7 PART II

8 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that in order to foster
9 "A Culture of Sustainability -- He Nohona 'Ae'oiia", Hawaii's
10 residents and visitors need to enjoy and connect with the
11 natural environment. Visiting natural areas cultivates respect
12 and appreciation for Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage.
13 Trails, public access, and other infrastructure need additional
14 funding to connect residents and tourists to the natural
15 environment.

16 Unfortunately, many trails and forested areas across the
17 State are not accessible to the public because access has not
18 been established or has been lost over time. Easements and
19 access agreements can restore public use. Also, new public
20 recreation areas need to be created through land acquisitions



1 and cooperative management agreements that target both private
2 and state lands.

3 The purpose of this part is to provide funds to the forest
4 and outdoor recreation program in order to help connect
5 residents and tourists to the natural environment.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund
9 positions and other operating expenditures in the forest and
10 outdoor recreation program (LNR804) for access, easements,
11 trails, outdoor recreation improvements, environmental
12 education, and other operating expenditures; provided that funds
13 appropriated in this section may be transferred with the
14 approval of the governor to the forest and outdoor recreation
15 program (LNR804) in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016
16 (Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

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

19 PART III

20 SECTION 4. Through Act 152, Session Laws of Hawaii 2000,
21 the legislature recognized that fresh water is not an infinite



1 resource and its high quality, quantity, and sustainability
 2 depend upon forested watersheds. Similarly, in 2015, the Hawaii
 3 fresh water initiative's blueprint for action included forest
 4 protection as a major step needed for Hawaii's fresh water
 5 security.

6 Studies by the University of Hawaii's economic research
 7 organization have estimated that funding to protect forests in
 8 the Koolau mountains has a return of twenty to fifty times the
 9 investment. This return is based on the value of increased
 10 freshwater, a resource threatened by climate change.

11 Hawaii's watershed partnerships provide a framework for
 12 large-scale forest protection. These voluntary alliances of
 13 public and private landowners and managers cooperate to protect
 14 over two million acres of forests that supply almost all of the
 15 hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh water needed in Hawaii
 16 every year.

17 The purpose of this part is to, among other things, support
 18 the annual competitive grants process that has achieved more
 19 than a two to one ratio of non-state to state funding.

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
 21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund
 2 other operating expenditures in the natural area reserves and
 3 watershed management program (LNR407) for watershed protection;
 4 provided that funds appropriated in this section may be
 5 transferred with the approval of the governor to the natural
 6 area reserves and watershed management program (LNR407) in the
 7 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws
 8 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 10 land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

11 PART IV

12 SECTION 6. The legislature finds that in order to see the
 13 benefit of community-based marine management and resource
 14 protection laws, there needs to be active monitoring and
 15 enforcement of these laws.

16 The department of land and natural resources' division of
 17 conservation and resources enforcement, in partnership with the
 18 Conservation International Foundation and the Harold K.L. Castle
 19 Foundation, launched a community fisheries enforcement unit
 20 pilot project on the north shore of Maui. The purpose of the
 21 pilot project was to respond to the community's longstanding



1 request for increased fisheries enforcement and presence, test
2 the proposed model for dedicated fisheries enforcement, and
3 provide outreach and education to members of the community about
4 marine ecology, pono fishing practices, and fishing regulations.

5 The initial Maui community fisheries enforcement unit pilot
6 project was staffed utilizing three assigned conservation and
7 resources enforcement officer temporary positions, teamed with a
8 community fisheries enforcement unit project coordinator and
9 Makai watch coordinator, and funded by private organizations.
10 The short term of the pilot project proved to be highly
11 successful by yielding high rates of compliance and community
12 involvement. However, long-term compliance and community
13 commitment is contingent upon permanent funding and
14 establishment of the community fisheries enforcement unit
15 positions.

16 The purpose of this part is to permanently establish the
17 community fisheries enforcement unit approach throughout the
18 State. The achievements of the Maui community fisheries
19 enforcement unit pilot project have proven that long-term
20 protection of marine resources is an end-product of enforcement,
21 community involvement, and education.



1 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
 4 conservation and resources enforcement program (LNR405) for
 5 personal services, other current expenses, equipment, and motor
 6 vehicles for the community fisheries enforcement unit.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 8 land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

9 PART V

10 SECTION 8. The legislature has affirmed on multiple
 11 occasions that the invasion of Hawaii by insects, disease-
 12 bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests is the single
 13 greatest threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment and
 14 to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. To fill gaps
 15 between departmental programs and support research and
 16 technology innovation, the legislature has provided funding to
 17 the interagency Hawaii invasive species council, administered
 18 from within the native resources and fire protection program
 19 (LNR402) at the department of land and natural resources'
 20 division of forestry and wildlife, since fiscal year 2005.



1 The purpose of this part is to provide financial support
2 for the departmental and interagency actions needed to mitigate
3 the threats and impacts of invasive species.

4 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
7 native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) to be
8 expended as directed by the Hawaii invasive species council for
9 invasive species programs statewide; provided that portions of
10 this appropriation may be transferred to other state departments
11 to implement the directions of the Hawaii invasive species
12 council; provided further that funds appropriated in this
13 section may be transferred with the approval of the governor to
14 the native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) in the
15 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws
16 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

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

19 PART VI

20 SECTION 10. The legislature finds that Hawaii's native
21 species are crucial to the cultural and ecological identity of



1 the islands and provide significant sources of revenue for the
2 State through tourism, while providing for the functioning of
3 our unique ecosystems. Hawaii's four hundred forty-eight
4 federally listed endangered plant and wildlife species are
5 globally important, as well as essential for the preservation of
6 the native Hawaiian culture. Since ancient times, native
7 Hawaiians have regarded these species as elders and ancestors,
8 and used them for medicines, offerings, and other material
9 needs. As Nainoa Thompson of the Polynesian Voyaging Society
10 was once quoted, "Each time we lose another Hawaiian plant or
11 bird or forest, we lose a living part of our ancient culture."

12 The purpose of this part is to fund the intensive research
13 and management necessary to protect, recover, and restore these
14 species.

15 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund
18 positions and other operating expenditures in the native
19 resources and fire protection program (LNR402) for native
20 species restoration; provided that funds appropriated in this
21 section may be transferred with the approval of the governor to



1 the native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) in the
2 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws
3 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
5 land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

6 PART VII

7 SECTION 12. Hawaii's forests defend against climate change
8 by sequestering carbon, reducing erosion that stresses coral
9 reefs, and supplying fresh water. For these reasons, the Hawaii
10 greenhouse gas emissions reduction task force strongly
11 recommends increasing opportunities for reforestation projects
12 to meet targets of the Hawaii clean energy initiative. The
13 intergovernmental panel on climate change also identified
14 preventing deforestation as the largest and most immediate
15 carbon stock impact in the short term.

16 The legislature finds that Hawaii's dependency on imported
17 fuel drains the State's economy of billions of dollars each
18 year. A stronger local economy depends on a transition away
19 from imported fuels and toward renewable local resources that
20 provide a secure source of clean, affordable energy.



1 Through Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, the
2 legislature updated and extended Hawaii's clean energy
3 initiative and renewable portfolio standards to ensure maximum
4 long-term benefits to Hawaii's economy by setting a goal of one
5 hundred per cent renewable by 2045. This goal ensures that
6 Hawaii moves beyond its dependence on imported fuels and
7 continues to grow local renewable energy industries, including
8 increasing new markets and forest biomass to energy projects.

9 There are a variety of opportunities for renewable energy
10 and unique revenue generation projects on forest reserve system
11 lands that will strengthen the State's economy while supporting
12 long-term conservation goals through improved forest management.
13 One such project is to engage one or more of the carbon markets,
14 which will not only improve forest biodiversity habitat,
15 watershed protection, and increase recreational opportunities,
16 but also provide an ongoing revenue stream that can be used for
17 ongoing forest conservation needs. Additionally, many of
18 Hawaii's state lands have been invaded by aggressive plants that
19 have severely altered the ecosystem and left many forests
20 dangerously susceptible to wildfires.



1 The purpose of this part is to encourage partnerships
2 between public and private landowners, through which forested
3 areas will be assessed for hazardous vegetation fuel loads and
4 prioritized for forest improvement activities, such as the
5 reduction of heavy fuel loads, forest thinning, and
6 reforestation with native species where possible. This effort
7 will also generate revenues through the sale of forest products,
8 with the funds being put directly back into forest conservation.
9 All funds will be used to leverage federal and non-state funds.

10 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund
13 positions and other operating expenditures in the forestry
14 resource management and development program (LNR172) for forest
15 reserve system management, including pre-fire suppression of
16 high-fuel areas; private landowner assistance programs; the
17 establishment of renewable energy projects with forest biomass;
18 and the generation of new forestry revenue streams, such as
19 through the carbon market; provided that funds appropriated in
20 this section may be transferred with the approval of the
21 governor to the forestry resource management and development



1 program (LNR172) in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016
2 (Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

5 PART VIII

6 SECTION 14. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



Report Title:

Aloha+ Challenge; Natural Resource Management Goals; Clean Energy Goals; Green Workforce Goals; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.
(HB2038 HD1)

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