
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'olia", 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 fresh water, 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 has affirmed on multiple
13 occasions that the invasion of Hawaii by insects, disease-
14 bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests is the single
15 greatest threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment and
16 to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. To fill gaps
17 between departmental programs and support research and
18 technology innovation, the legislature has provided funding to
19 the interagency Hawaii invasive species council, administered
20 from within the native resources and fire protection program



1 (LNR402) at the department of land and natural resources'
2 division of forestry and wildlife, since fiscal year 2005.

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

6 SECTION 7. 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 for the
9 native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) to be
10 expended as directed by the Hawaii invasive species council for
11 invasive species programs statewide; provided that portions of
12 this appropriation may be transferred to other state departments
13 to implement the directions of the Hawaii invasive species
14 council; provided further that funds appropriated in this
15 section may be transferred with the approval of the governor to
16 the native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) in the
17 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws
18 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

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



1 PART V

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

15 The purpose of this part is to fund the intensive research
16 and management necessary to protect, recover, and restore these
17 species.

18 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund
21 positions and other operating expenditures in the native



1 resources and fire protection program (LNR402) for native
2 species restoration; provided that funds appropriated in this
3 section may be transferred with the approval of the governor to
4 the native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) in the
5 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws
6 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

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

9 PART VI

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

19 The legislature finds that Hawaii's dependency on imported
20 fuel drains the State's economy of billions of dollars each
21 year. A stronger local economy depends on a transition away



1 from imported fuels and toward renewable local resources that
2 provide a secure source of clean, affordable energy.

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

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



1 have severely altered the ecosystem and left many forests
2 dangerously susceptible to wildfires.

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

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



1 this section may be transferred with the approval of the
2 governor to the forestry resource management and development
3 program (LNR172) in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016
4 (Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

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

7 PART VII

8 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



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 HD2)

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