

JAN 27 2016

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# 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  
3 for Hawaii's residents and visitors, and maintain important  
4 revenue streams in Hawaii's economy. This Act will add local  
5 jobs and green workforce training opportunities, essential to  
6 the overall 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 \$2,500,000 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 \$4,000,000 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 (CFEU) pilot project on the north shore of Maui. The purpose of  
21 the 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 CFEU pilot project was staffed utilizing  
6 three assigned conservation and resources enforcement officer  
7 temporary positions, teamed with a CFEU project coordinator and  
8 Makai watch coordinator, and funded by private organizations.  
9 The short term of the pilot project proved to be highly  
10 successful by yielding high rates of compliance and community  
11 involvement. However, long-term compliance and community  
12 commitment is contingent upon permanent funding and  
13 establishment of the CFEU positions.

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

19 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,200,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the



1 conservation and resources enforcement program (LNR405) for  
2 personal services, other current expenses, equipment, and motor  
3 vehicles for the community fisheries enforcement unit.

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

6 PART V

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

18 The purpose of this part is to provide financial support  
19 for the departmental and interagency actions needed to mitigate  
20 the threats and impacts of invasive species.



1 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,250,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
4 native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) to be  
5 expended as directed by the Hawaii invasive species council for  
6 invasive species programs statewide; provided that portions of  
7 this appropriation may be transferred to other state departments  
8 to implement the directions of the Hawaii invasive species  
9 council; and provided that funds appropriated in this section  
10 may be transferred with the approval of the governor to the  
11 native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) in the  
12 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws  
13 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this part.

16 PART VI

17 SECTION 10. The legislature finds that Hawaii's native  
18 species are crucial to the cultural and ecological identity of  
19 the islands and provide significant sources of revenue for the  
20 State through tourism, while providing for the functioning of  
21 our unique ecosystems. Hawaii's four hundred forty-eight





1 federally listed endangered plant and wildlife species are  
2 globally important, as well as essential for the preservation of  
3 the native Hawaiian culture. Since ancient times, native  
4 Hawaiians have regarded these species as elders and ancestors,  
5 and used them for medicines, offerings, and other material  
6 needs. As Nainoa Thompson of the Polynesian Voyaging Society  
7 was once quoted, "Each time we lose another Hawaiian plant or  
8 bird or forest, we lose a living part of our ancient culture."

9 The purpose of this part is to fund the intensive research  
10 and management necessary to protect, recover, and restore these  
11 species.

12 SECTION 11. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,600,000 or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund  
15 positions and other operating expenditures in the native  
16 resources and fire protection program (LNR402) for native  
17 species restoration; provided that funds appropriated in this  
18 section may be transferred with the approval of the governor to  
19 the native resources and fire protection program (LNR402) in the  
20 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws  
21 of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.



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

3 PART VII

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

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

18 Through Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, the  
19 legislature updated and extended Hawaii's clean energy  
20 initiative and renewable portfolio standards to ensure maximum  
21 long-term benefits to Hawaii's economy by setting a goal of one



1 hundred per cent renewable by 2045. This goal ensures that  
2 Hawaii moves beyond its dependence on imported fuels and  
3 continues to grow local renewable energy industries, including  
4 increasing new markets and forest biomass to energy projects.

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

17 The purpose of this part is to encourage partnerships  
18 between public and private landowners, through which forested  
19 areas will be assessed for hazardous vegetation fuel loads and  
20 prioritized for forest improvement activities, such as the  
21 reduction of heavy fuel loads, forest thinning, and



1 reforestation with native species where possible. This effort  
2 will also generate revenues through the sale of forest products,  
3 with the funds being put directly back into forest conservation.  
4 All funds will be used to leverage federal and non-state funds.

5 SECTION 13. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,500,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to fund  
8 positions and other operating expenditures in the forestry  
9 resource management and development program (LNR172) for forest  
10 reserve system management, including pre-fire suppression of  
11 high fuel areas, private landowner assistance programs,  
12 establishing renewable energy projects with forest biomass, and  
13 generation of new forestry revenue streams, such as through the  
14 carbon market; provided that funds appropriated in this section  
15 may be transferred with the approval of the governor to the  
16 forestry resource management and development program (LNR172) in  
17 the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session  
18 Laws of Hawaii 2016) for expenditure.

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



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PART VIII

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

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# S.B. NO. 2773

**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the natural resource, clean energy, and green workforce goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

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