
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE.

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

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PART I

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

The legislature further finds that through the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 69, S.D. 1 (2014), the legislature endorsed and supported a shared statewide commitment to sustainability through the integrated approach and targets of the Aloha+ Challenge to be achieved by 2030.

The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to directly implement three of the six goals outlined in the Aloha+ Challenge: natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce development. Funding these targets is essential to



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

6 **PART II**

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

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



1 fresh water initiative's blueprint for action included forest
2 protection as a major step needed for Hawaii's fresh water
3 security.

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

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

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

18 SECTION 5. 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 other operating expenditures in the natural area reserves and



1 watershed management program (LNR407) for watershed protection;
2 provided that funds appropriated in this section may be
3 transferred with the approval of the governor to the natural
4 area reserves and watershed management program (LNR407) 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 IV**

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

14 The department of land and natural resources' division of
15 conservation and resources enforcement, in partnership with the
16 Conservation International Hawaii Fish Trust and the Harold K.L.
17 Castle Foundation, launched a community fisheries enforcement
18 unit (CFEU) pilot project on the north shore of Maui. The
19 purpose of the pilot project was to respond to the community's
20 longstanding request for increased fisheries enforcement and
21 presence, test the proposed model for dedicated fisheries



1 enforcement, and provide outreach and education to members of
2 the community about marine ecology, pono fishing practices, and
3 fishing regulations.

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

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

18 SECTION 7. 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 for the
21 conservation and resources enforcement program (LNR405) for



1 personal services, other current expenses, equipment, and motor
2 vehicles for the community fisheries enforcement unit.

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

5 **PART V**

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

17 The purpose of this part is to provide financial support
18 for the departmental and interagency actions needed to mitigate
19 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 \$ 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; provided further that funds appropriated in this
10 section may be transferred with the approval of the governor to
11 the 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 the State's unique ecosystems. Hawaii's four hundred forty-



1 eight 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 insect or forest, we lose a living part of our ancient
9 culture."

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

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



1 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2016 (Act , Session Laws
2 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 VII**

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

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

20 Through Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, the
21 legislature updated and extended Hawaii's clean energy



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

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

19 The purpose of this part is to encourage partnerships
20 between public and private landowners, through which forested
21 areas will be assessed for hazardous vegetation fuel loads and



1 prioritized for forest improvement activities, such as the
2 reduction of heavy fuel loads, forest thinning, and
3 reforestation with native species where possible. This effort
4 will also generate revenues through the sale of forest products,
5 with the funds being put directly back into forest conservation.
6 All funds will be used to leverage federal and non-state funds.

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



S.B. NO. 2773
S.D. 2

Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds for the natural resource management, clean energy, and green workforce development goals of the Aloha+ Challenge. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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