

JAN 23 2015

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO HA'OLA O WAIPI'O VALLEY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the preamble of the  
2 long term lease agreement of the Bishop Museum states, "There is  
3 special mana in Waipi'o. Mana from long ago; mana still there;  
4 mana still alive. Waipi'o valley embraces in that mana many  
5 things. It embraces the wai, the inland waters, coursing  
6 through the valley floor, or simply falling from the sky,  
7 touching, and in the touching, along with 'aina, the land,  
8 nourishing all it touches. It embraces kalo (also known as  
9 taro) and the many other plants which abound. Ka po'e, the  
10 people, themselves are embraced by the mana of Waipi'o, and over  
11 the generations of being embraced, have become kin to the spirit  
12 of the valley. Out of this sense of kinship grows the aloha and  
13 a sense of malama 'aina, protecting the integrity of Waipi'o by  
14 perpetuating her ability to flow and flourish, and continue to  
15 touch the lives of so many more to come. This is the spirit of  
16 the valley."



1           Waipio Valley, a significant cultural, historic, and  
2 natural resource, is a farming community with a historically  
3 rich tradition of agricultural production that still plays an  
4 important role in island food security, producing a significant  
5 amount of kalo for poi in the State of Hawaii. Ensuring the  
6 viability and protection of this heritage is of critical  
7 importance for the State of Hawaii for cultural preservation,  
8 natural resource protection, and supporting the local  
9 agricultural economy.

10           The Waipi'o Valley community faces various issues in its  
11 ongoing attempts to protect its rich heritage and manage its  
12 natural resources. Two issues of primary importance are public  
13 safety and responsible public access into Waipi'o Valley, which  
14 is comprised almost entirely of private land and the river and  
15 its associated irrigation systems that feed taro patches or lo'i  
16 kalo.

17           Waipi'o Valley is a unique agricultural community and a  
18 public resource for residents and visitors. The dynamics  
19 between public and private access, use, and safety are  
20 compounded by the steep and narrow access road that serves as  
21 the only means into the Valley. The occurrence of dangerous



1 situations are exacerbated by increased use that exceeds the  
2 carrying capacity of the access road. Furthermore, unregulated  
3 public access leads to trespassing, liability issues, and  
4 potential severe personal safety issues. Thus, it is imperative  
5 to address this issue for public safety reasons and to preserve  
6 Waipi'o Valley's unique heritage and educational potential.

7 In attempts to address this issue, the county of Hawaii, in  
8 collaboration with the Waipi'o Valley community, established the  
9 Waipio Valley education and information officer program in 2009  
10 to educate visitors and residents on protocol and safety issues  
11 regarding access into the valley. With an increase in visitor  
12 and resident traffic, there is a need to expand educational  
13 efforts.

14 In 2009, the county of Hawaii used a combination of public  
15 access, open spaces, and natural conservation funds to purchase  
16 the Waipi'o Valley lookout parcel or the Rice property, which is  
17 adjacent to the county's Waipi'o Valley lookout that serves as  
18 the entry point for the Waipi'o Valley access road. This  
19 property was purchased with the intent that the acquisition  
20 could enhance county facilities at Waipi'o lookout by providing  
21 safety, cultural, and historic information to visitors and



1 residents, additional parking for the lookout area, and  
2 circulation at the lookout area improvements; and potentially  
3 serving as a future ranger station and center for community  
4 programs. Furthermore, the development of a culturally-based  
5 education center using the two county owned lookout properties  
6 could serve as a potential revenue generating source to support  
7 the ongoing management needs of and efforts in Waipi'o Valley.  
8 These initiatives are supported by the 2003 *Waipi'o Valley*  
9 *Community Action Plan* and the 1999 *Waipi'o Valley: Towards*  
10 *Community Planning and Ahupua'a Management*.

11 Building on many past initiatives to manage the river and  
12 its associated irrigation waterways or auwai, including the  
13 Natural Resources Conservation Service *Waipi'o Stream Management*  
14 *Plan*, 2009 *Wailoa River Mouth Clearing Project*, and 2010 *Mauna*  
15 *Kea Soil and Water Conservation District's Waipi'o Valley Flood*  
16 *Damage Reduction and Stream Stabilization Preliminary*  
17 *Investigation*, the community continues its efforts to manage its  
18 vital waterways and implement the development of flood  
19 protection and stream stabilization projects.

20 There is a need to acquire the necessary equipment for the  
21 community to build the capacity to perform the required work in



1 a sustainable, environmentally responsible, and economically  
2 feasible manner. The community currently possesses various farm  
3 equipment, but it is insufficient to implement the required  
4 river work. Additional funding is needed for intensive river  
5 maintenance work, including flood protection, stream  
6 stabilization, and stream bank maintenance to enable the Waipi'o  
7 Valley community to sustainably manage its waterways.

8 Hā Ola O Waipi'o Valley is a state registered non-profit  
9 organization that was formally organized in 2014 to build on  
10 past efforts to address the ongoing needs and kuleana of Waipi'o  
11 Valley as a community. To reduce costs and strengthen community  
12 involvement, Hā Ola O Waipi'o Valley has worked with longstanding  
13 community partners, including the county of Hawaii, and  
14 developed collaborative commitments to contribute in the  
15 conceptual planning and design services through in-kind  
16 contributions.

17 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds as a grant  
18 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Hā Ola O  
19 Waipi'o Valley for costs associated with the conceptual planning  
20 and design of and the environmental assessment for the  
21 development of the Waipi'o Valley lookout properties and the



# S.B. NO. 522

1 purchase of heavy equipment for and operating costs of stream  
2 maintenance projects in Waipi'o Valley.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 as a grant  
6 pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Hā Ola O  
7 Waipi'o Valley.

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

10 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 522

**Report Title:**

Hā Ola O Waipi'o Valley; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for Hā Ola O Waipi'o Valley.

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