

JAN 25 2017

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System  
2 is a network of twenty-eight protected areas along America's  
3 coasts. According to the *National Estuarine Research Reserve*  
4 *System Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, the System is founded on the  
5 principle that long-term protection of representative estuaries  
6 provides stable platforms for research and education and the  
7 application of management practices that will benefit the  
8 nation's estuaries and coasts.

9           The legislature finds that the State has coordinated with  
10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to  
11 nominate He'eia estuary as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.  
12 The site, located on Oahu's windward shore, includes He'eia state  
13 park, fishpond, and wetlands as well as marine waters with patch  
14 and fringing reefs and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island). In 2014,  
15 He'eia was officially nominated as a Reserve to support NOAA's  
16 policy to encourage expansion of the program in unrepresented



1 areas of the country. NOAA is currently poised to begin  
2 implementation of He'eia Reserve's management plan.

3 For He'eia Reserve to succeed in its function within the  
4 System, funding for initial staffing is essential. The initial  
5 staffing needs are four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE)  
6 positions: a reserve manager, education coordinator, research  
7 coordinator, and cultural resource coordinator. Although the  
8 University of Hawaii has agreed to fund these positions in the  
9 first year, further funding is required to sustain them and to  
10 keep He'eia Reserve fully functioning. These positions must be  
11 established as well as sustained to develop and manage He'eia  
12 reserve and keep it fully functioning. The legislature notes  
13 that as funding or partnership opportunities become available,  
14 additional staff will be required within the first five years to  
15 meet management plan goals and objectives.

16 The purpose of this Act is to support He'eia estuary in its  
17 designation as a National Estuarine Research Reserve by  
18 appropriating funds to maintain the initial staff necessary to  
19 develop and manage He'eia Reserve and its programs.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$400,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
2 hiring of four full-time equivalent (4.00 FTE) permanent  
3 positions in the University of Hawaii to maintain the initial  
4 staff necessary to develop and manage He'eia reserve and its  
5 programs, as follows:

- 6 (1) \$100,000 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
7 reserve manager position;
- 8 (2) \$100,000 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
9 education coordinator position;
- 10 (3) \$100,000 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
11 research coordinator position; and
- 12 (4) \$100,000 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
13 cultural resource coordinator position.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
15 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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# S.B. NO. 1178

**Report Title:**

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve; Staff Hiring;  
University of Hawaii; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for the initial staff necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve and its programs.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

