

JAN 20 2017

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAILS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of  
2 forestry and wildlife has a current statewide inventory of one  
3 hundred twenty-eight trail-and-road features spanning  
4 approximately eight hundred fifty-five miles. Trails include  
5 parking areas, comfort stations, pavilions, picnic areas, and  
6 other improvements that the public heavily uses. In addition to  
7 the wear and tear inflicted by human traffic, which may be  
8 hundreds of hikers each day, these facilities are generally  
9 located in areas where weather takes a toll. Furthermore, the  
10 cost of maintaining these facilities is often at a premium due  
11 to their remote location. Keeping these places and improvements  
12 in good shape requires reliable capital investment for routine  
13 repairs and reasonable operational support for regular  
14 maintenance. Due to budget and staffing limitations, the level  
15 of maintenance on these features varies. As facilities and  
16 infrastructure age, they require routine, and frequently  
17 expensive, repairs. Accordingly, one would expect to see the



1 State providing steady or even rising expenditures on repairs  
2 and periodic replacements for a statewide system of trails  
3 infrastructure as these improvements age. However, the State's  
4 record of capital investment in trails between 1992 and 2011,  
5 the twenty-year period when most of these facilities reached  
6 thirty to fifty years of age, shows a lack of state commitment  
7 to maintain these public facilities. The operational budget for  
8 trails has essentially been cut annually for the past two  
9 decades, thereby rendering the department of land and natural  
10 resources unable to meet the needs of routine maintenance and  
11 operations of these heavily used public recreational places.  
12 Thus, the legislature finds that the operational budget to  
13 manage these trails must be expanded to keep up with the growing  
14 demand for trail use and to ensure public safety.

15 The purpose of this Act is to increase the budget of the  
16 department of land and natural resources' nā ala hele, Hawaii  
17 statewide trail and access program, to the amount it would be if  
18 budget increases had kept pace with inflation, based on its 1992  
19 budget of \$2,000,000, by phasing in budget increases over a  
20 five-year period to enable nā ala hele to implement improvements  
21 to Hawaii's trail system.



1 SECTION 2. The legislature shall appropriate funds for the  
2 operational budget of the department of land and natural  
3 resources' nā ala hele, Hawaii statewide trail and access  
4 system, as follows:

5 (1) For fiscal year 2017-2018, an amount not less than  
6 \$2,288,105.50;

7 (2) For fiscal year 2018-2019, an amount not less than  
8 \$2,576,211;

9 (3) For fiscal year 2019-2020, an amount not less than  
10 \$2,864,316.50;

11 (4) For fiscal year 2020-2021, an amount not less than  
12 \$3,152,422; and

13 (5) For fiscal year 2021-2022, an amount not less than  
14 \$3,440,527.50.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and  
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
19 year 2018-2019 for the nā ala hele, Hawaii statewide trail and  
20 access system, to improve access to and maintenance of state  
21 controlled recreational trails statewide.



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

3       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Bill Davis*

*Paul E. Paul*  
*Paul E. Paul*  
*McDonald*



# S.B. NO. 709

**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Na Ala Hele; Hawaii Statewide Trail and Access System; Appropriation

**Description:**

Makes an appropriation for nā ala hele to improve access to and maintenance of state controlled recreational trails statewide. Requires the operational budget for nā ala hele to be increased by equal amounts over five years to reach an amount based on the 1992 budget of \$2,000,000 adjusted for inflation into 2016 dollars.

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

