
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 division 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
18 State providing steady or even rising expenditures on repairs



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

14 The 1992 budget of \$2,000,000 for nā ala hele, the Hawaii
15 statewide trail and access program, is the equivalent of
16 approximately \$3,440,527.50 in 2016 dollars when adjusted for
17 inflation. The legislature finds that phasing in budget
18 increases over five years would be an efficient schedule for
19 appropriating sufficient funds for nā ala hele, and recommends
20 the following appropriation schedule: \$2,288,105.50 for fiscal
21 year 2017-2018; \$2,576,211 for fiscal year 2018-2019;



1 \$2,864,316.50 for fiscal year 2019-2020; \$3,152,422 for fiscal
2 year 2020-2021; and \$3,440,527.50 for fiscal year 2021-2022.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
4 department of land and natural resources to improve nā ala hele,
5 the Hawaii statewide trail and access program.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,288,105.50 or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
9 \$2,576,211 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2018-2019 for nā ala hele, the Hawaii statewide trail and
11 access program, to improve access to and maintenance of state
12 controlled recreational trails statewide.

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

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

16



Report Title:

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

Description:

Makes an appropriation for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019
for nā ala hele to improve access to and maintenance of state
controlled recreational trails statewide. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

