
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 to nominate
11 He'eia estuary as a national estuarine research reserve. The
12 site, located on Oahu's windward shore, includes He'eia state
13 park, He'eia fishpond, and the He'eia community development
14 district, as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs
15 and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island). In 2012, the office of
16 planning was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the
17 selection for a Hawaii site to be designated as a national



1 estuarine research reserve and nomination process for He'eia to
2 be designated as a national estuarine research reserve. In
3 2014, He'eia was officially nominated as a national estuarine
4 research reserve to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
5 Administration's policy to encourage expansion of the program in
6 unrepresented areas of the country.

7 The He'eia site was chosen as the preferred site after a
8 statewide solicitation period from interested communities. The
9 office of planning supported the designation process through the
10 development of the He'eia national estuarine research reserve
11 system management plan. On January 19, 2017, the He'eia site was
12 officially designated as the twenty-ninth site in the national
13 estuarine research reserve system, which enables federal funding
14 to support the implementation of the management plan.

15 The Hawaii institute of marine biology, which is part of
16 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is the lead agency for
17 implementation of the He'eia national estuarine research reserve
18 system management plan. The university's partners will include
19 the Hawaii community development authority, department of land
20 and natural resources, and several community organizations. For
21 He'eia reserve to succeed in its function within the national



1 estuarine research reserve system, funding for initial staffing
2 is essential. Further funding is required to sustain them and
3 to keep He'eia reserve fully functioning. The legislature notes
4 that as funding or partnership opportunities become available,
5 additional staff will be required within the first five years to
6 meet management plan goals and objectives, and further notes
7 that the federal government matches state appropriations on a
8 seventy per cent (federal) to thirty per cent (state) basis.

9 The purpose of this Act is to support He'eia estuary in its
10 designation as a national estuarine research reserve by
11 appropriating funds to maintain the initial staff necessary to
12 develop and manage He'eia reserve and its programs.

13 SECTION 2. Contractors and other third parties who receive
14 funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by
15 the University of Hawaii, the department of land and natural
16 resources, the attorney general, and the auditor. Upon request
17 by such agencies, the contractor or third party shall be
18 required to submit for review all files, records, documents, and
19 accounting related to the use and expenditure of funds received
20 pursuant to this Act, whether the funds were received via
21 contract, grant, or other agreement.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
4 hiring of 1.00 full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent
5 position within the University of Hawaii to maintain the initial
6 staff and operations necessary to develop and manage He'eia
7 reserve and its programs.

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

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to maintain the initial staff position and operations necessary to develop and manage He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve and its programs. (HB2613 CD1)

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