
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds, as declared in the
2 Hawaii Commitments presented to the World Conservation Congress
3 in 2016, that "[w]e must undertake profound transformations in
4 how human societies live on Earth, with particular attention to
5 making our patterns of production and consumption more
6 sustainable. We must recognize that human health and wellbeing
7 depend on healthy ecosystems. We must recognize that every form
8 of life has value - regardless of its worth to humans." Hawaii
9 has been a leader in conservation efforts for decades through
10 its commitment to environmental and sustainability policies. In
11 the 1970s, the State enacted the State Environmental Policy,
12 chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as a mechanism to set
13 environmental goals. While comprehensive, it lacked measurable
14 indicators and enforcement means. Our understanding of the
15 challenges facing our natural environment worldwide has changed
16 remarkably since the 1970s and the laws enacted in Hawaii in
17 recent decades have served as a starlight for other



1 jurisdictions and set a global example on how to adopt policies
2 on sustainability. More recently, several approaches to
3 sustainability have emerged in Hawaii, including the Aloha+
4 Challenge, the governor's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative, and
5 other initiatives inspired by the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage
6 and Mālama Hawai'i.

7 In July of 2014, the State launched the Aloha+ Challenge, a
8 statewide commitment to sustainability, with the leadership of
9 the governor, four county mayors, the Office of Hawaiian
10 affairs, the legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private
11 partners across the State. *The Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona*
12 *'Ae'oia, A Culture of Sustainability*, builds on Hawaii's history
13 of systems thinking, Hawaiian culture and values, and successful
14 track record on sustainability to outline six ambitious goals to
15 be achieved by 2030:

- 16 (1) Clean energy: Achieve seventy per cent clean energy,
17 with forty per cent from renewables and thirty per
18 cent from efficiency;
- 19 (2) Local food: At least double local food production for
20 local consumption;



1 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of
2 natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing
3 freshwater security, watershed protection, community-
4 based marine management, invasive species control, and
5 restoration of native species;

6 (4) Waste reduction: Reduce the solid waste stream prior
7 to disposal by seventy per cent through source
8 reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill
9 diversion methods;

10 (5) Smart sustainable communities: Increase livability
11 and resilience in the built environment through
12 planning and implementation at the state and county
13 levels; and

14 (6) Green workforce and education: Increase local green
15 jobs and education to implement these goals.

16 To increase the efforts of the Aloha+ Challenge, the
17 governor launched the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative in 2016,
18 which includes five goals:

19 (1) Double local food production by 2020;

20 (2) Implement Hawaii's interagency biosecurity plan by
21 2027;



- 1 (3) Protect thirty per cent of the highest priority
2 watersheds by 2030;
- 3 (4) Manage thirty per cent of nearshore ocean waters by
4 2030; and
- 5 (5) Achieve one hundred per cent renewable energy in
6 electricity by 2045.

7 In May of 2014, Hōkūle'a began a three-year voyage across
8 the world's oceans carrying the message of Mālama Honua - to
9 care for the earth. Building on the legacy of the Polynesian
10 way finders, the Hōkūle'a Worldwide Voyage inspired actions of
11 conservation across the Hawaiian Islands and beyond, resulting
12 in the connection of a lei of aloha around the globe.

13 At the global level, the United Nations sustainable
14 development goals, the Hawaii Commitments presented to the World
15 Conservation Congress in 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement
16 have been adopted to guide global efforts. The sustainable
17 development goals, otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for
18 Sustainable Development, which were born at the United Nations
19 Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012
20 and came into force in 2015, are a universal call to action to
21 end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people



1 enjoy peace and prosperity. The seventeen sustainable
2 development goals are interconnected and work in the spirit of
3 partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to
4 improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations.
5 They provide a clear framework for action to guide countries in
6 accordance with their own priorities and the environmental
7 challenges of the world at large. They tackle the root causes
8 of poverty and unite us together to make a positive change for
9 both people and planet.

10 Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how we
11 manage our fragile natural resources. Achieving gender equality
12 and better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering
13 peaceful and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and
14 help economies prosper. The sustainable development goals are
15 voluntary commitments to make the world a better and more
16 prosperous place.

17 During September 2016, more than thousand leaders from
18 government, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and
19 spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia gathered
20 in Hawaii for a meeting of the International Union for
21 Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Delegates



1 to the Congress adopted the Hawaii Commitments to achieve the
2 transformation required to promote a "Culture of Conservation".
3 The Hawaii Commitments consist of seven identified challenges
4 and proposed solutions, including:

- 5 (1) Linking spirituality, religion, culture, and
6 conservation;
- 7 (2) Engaging and empowering youth;
- 8 (3) The challenge of sustaining the global food supply and
9 conserving nature;
- 10 (4) The challenge of preserving the health of the world
11 ocean;
- 12 (5) The challenge of ending wildlife trafficking;
- 13 (6) The challenge of engaging with the private sector; and
14 (7) The challenge of climate change.

15 The Hawaii Commitments build on the Paris Climate Agreement and
16 the sustainable development goals to allow different global
17 voices to come together and find common ground in the spirit of
18 partnership, collaboration, and sustainability.

19 In order for Hawaii to continue to serve as a starlight for
20 the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and
21 to serve as global leader on issues of conservation and



1 sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its
2 full commitment to its own policies and goals, as well as the
3 goals set on the international stage at United Nations
4 conferences and summits on sustainability.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to codify the State's
6 commitment to conservation and sustainability by including goal
7 four, quality education, of the seventeen United Nations
8 sustainable development goals and indicators, with references to
9 existing state sustainability programs, if applicable, in the
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
13 and to read as follows:

14 "**§344- Sustainable development goals; quality**
15 **education.** In pursuance of the State's sustainability goals,
16 and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies shall,
17 insofar as practicable, take action to assist the State in
18 achieving the sustainable development goal of ensuring inclusive
19 and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning
20 opportunities for all by 2030 by:



- 1 (1) Ensuring that all children complete equitable and
2 quality primary and secondary education leading to
3 relevant and effective learning outcomes;
- 4 (2) Ensuring that all children have access to quality
5 early childhood development, care, and pre-school
6 education to prepare them for primary education;
- 7 (3) Ensuring equal access for all persons to affordable
8 and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary
9 education, including university;
- 10 (4) Substantially increasing the number of youth and
11 adults who have relevant skills, including technical
12 and vocational skills, for employment and for
13 entrepreneurship, and developing young leaders for
14 careers in the conservation and natural resource
15 management fields in Hawaii through internships,
16 fellowships, training, and networking opportunities;
- 17 (5) Engaging and empowering youth to connect with nature,
18 take action to support conservation, and work for the
19 planet, pursuant to the World Conservation Congress
20 Hawai'i Commitments of 2016, and ensuring that all
21 learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to



promote sustainable development, sustainable
lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion
of a culture of peace and non-violence, global
citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity
and of culture's contribution to sustainable
development;

(6) Advancing environmental and cultural literacy via
broad-based partnerships for grassroots capacity
building;

(7) Eliminating gender disparities in education and
ensuring equal access to all levels of education and
vocational training for the vulnerable, including
persons with disabilities, Native Hawaiians, and
children in vulnerable situations;

(8) Substantially increasing the state literacy rate for
youths and adults;

(9) Building and upgrading education facilities that are
child, disability, and gender sensitive and providing
safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning
environments for all;



- 1 (10) Substantially expanding statewide the number of
2 scholarships available for enrollment in higher
3 education, including vocational training, information
4 and communications technology, and technical,
5 engineering, and scientific programs; and
6 (11) Substantially increasing the supply of qualified
7 teachers."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal Four; Quality Education

Description:

Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal four, quality education. (SD1)

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