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



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

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

15 (1) Clean energy: Achieve seventy per cent clean energy,  
16 with forty per cent from renewables and thirty per  
17 cent from efficiency;

18 (2) Local food: At least double local food production for  
19 local consumption;

20 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of  
21 natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing



1           freshwater security, watershed protection, community-  
2           based marine management, invasive species control, and  
3           restoration of native species;

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

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

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

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

17          (1) Double local food production by 2020;

18          (2) Implement Hawaii's interagency biosecurity plan by  
19          2027;

20          (3) Protect thirty per cent of the highest priority  
21          watersheds by 2030;



1 (4) Manage thirty per cent of nearshore ocean waters by  
2 2030; and

3 (5) Achieve one hundred per cent renewable energy in  
4 electricity by 2045.

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

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



1 pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a  
2 sustainable way, for future generations. They provide a clear  
3 framework for action to guide countries in accordance with their  
4 own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at  
5 large. They also tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us  
6 together to make a positive change for both people and the  
7 planet.

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

15 During September 2016, over ten thousand leaders from  
16 government, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and  
17 spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia gathered  
18 in Hawaii for a meeting of the International Union for  
19 Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Delegates  
20 to the Congress adopted the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i  
21 Commitments in order to achieve the transformation required to



1 promote a "Culture of Conservation". The Hawaii Commitments  
2 consist of seven identified challenges and proposed solutions,  
3 including:

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

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

18 In order for Hawaii to continue to serve as an example for  
19 the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and  
20 to serve as a global leader on issues of conservation and  
21 sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its



1 full commitment to its own policies and goals, as well as the  
2 goals set on the international stage at United Nations  
3 conferences and summits on sustainability.

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

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

13 "§344- Sustainable development goals; clean water and  
14 sanitation. In pursuance of the State's sustainability goals,  
15 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies, insofar  
16 as practicable, shall assist the State in achieving the  
17 sustainable development goal of ensuring the sustainable  
18 management of water and sanitation and the availability of clean  
19 water and sanitation to all by 2030 by:

20 (1) Achieving universal and equitable access to safe and  
21 affordable drinking water for all;



- 1        (2) Achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation  
2        and hygiene for all;
- 3        (3) Improving water quality by reducing pollution,  
4        eliminating dumping and minimizing the release of  
5        hazardous chemicals and materials, reducing the  
6        proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially  
7        increasing recycling and safe reuse statewide;
- 8        (4) Substantially increasing water-use efficiency across  
9        all sectors and ensuring sustainable withdrawals and  
10       supply of freshwater to address water scarcity;
- 11       (5) Implementing integrated water resources management at  
12       all levels in line with the goals of the Sustainable  
13       Hawaii Initiative, Aloha+ Challenge, and World  
14       Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of 2016;
- 15       (6) Protecting thirty per cent of priority watersheds,  
16       pursuant to the Sustainable Hawaii Initiative, and  
17       restoring water-related ecosystems, including  
18       watersheds, mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers,  
19       aquifers, and lakes;
- 20       (7) Expanding statewide cooperation and capacity-building  
21       support to the counties in water- and sanitation-





1           related activities and programs, including water  
2           harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater  
3           treatment, and recycling and reuse technologies; and  
4       (8) Supporting and strengthening the participation of  
5           local communities in improving water and sanitation  
6           management."

7       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal Six; Clean Water and Sanitation

**Description:**

Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal six, clean water and sanitation. (SD1)

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