
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." Hawai'i 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 have changed remarkably since
16 the 1970s, and the laws enacted in Hawai'i in recent decades have
17 served as a starlight 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 Hawai'i, including the Aloha+ Challenge, the governor's
4 Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative, and other initiatives inspired by
5 the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage and Mālama Hawai'i.

6 In July of 2014, the State launched the *Aloha+ Challenge:*
7 *He Nohona 'Ae'oia, A Culture of Sustainability*, a statewide
8 commitment to sustainability, with the leadership of the
9 governor, four county mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
10 legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners
11 across the State. The Aloha+ Challenge builds on the State's
12 history of systems thinking, Hawaiian culture and values, and
13 successful track record on sustainability to outline six
14 ambitious 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 Hawai'i Initiative in 2016,
16 which includes five goals:

17 (1) Double local food production by 2020;

18 (2) Implement the State'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, Hōkūleʻa 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 Hōkūleʻa 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 Hawaiʻi
13 Commitments of 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement have been
14 adopted to guide global efforts. The Sustainable Development
15 Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
16 Development, were born at the United Nations Conference on
17 Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, came into
18 force in 2015, and are a universal call to action to end
19 poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy
20 peace and prosperity. The seventeen SDGs are interconnected and
21 work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the



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

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

13 During September 2016, over ten thousand leaders from
14 government, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and
15 spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia gathered
16 in Hawai'i for a meeting of the International Union for
17 Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Delegates
18 to the Congress adopted the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i
19 Commitments to achieve the transformation required to promote a
20 "Culture of Conservation". The Hawai'i Commitments consist of
21 seven identified challenges and proposed solutions, including:



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

The Hawai'i Commitments build on the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs to allow different global voices to come together and find common ground in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and sustainability.

In order for Hawai'i to continue to serve as a starlight for the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and to serve as a global leader on issues of conservation and sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its full commitment to its own policies and goals as well as the goals set on the international stage at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainability.



1 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to codify the State's
2 commitment to conservation and sustainability by including goal
3 fourteen, life below water, of the seventeen United Nations SDGs
4 and indicators, with references to existing state sustainability
5 programs, if applicable, in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
8 and to read as follows:

9 "§226- Sustainable development goals; life below water.

10 In pursuance of the State's sustainability goals, and
11 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies shall,
12 insofar as practicable, take action to assist the State in
13 achieving the sustainable development goal of conserving and
14 sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for
15 sustainable development by 2030, unless otherwise indicated in
16 this section, by:

- 17 (1) Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution
18 of all kinds, in particular from land-based
19 activities, including plastics, marine debris, and
20 nutrient pollution;



1 (2) Sustainably managing and protecting marine and coastal
2 ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts and
3 taking action for their restoration through on-the-
4 ground efforts via public-private, community-based
5 partnerships in order to:

6 (A) Improve ocean-related enforcement by enhancing
7 state capacity and creating more effective,
8 streamlined adjudication processes;

9 (B) Increase the amount of nearshore waters
10 throughout the State that are sufficiently and
11 effectively managed to allow for healthy
12 fisheries and habitats;

13 (C) Increase areas where communities are formally and
14 actively managing marine resources statewide;

15 (D) Secure appropriate levels of support for agencies
16 for critical natural resource initiatives and
17 devise and implement a means by which to manage
18 resources statewide that enables increased
19 funding to the State for improved fisher data,
20 stock assessments, enforcement, and ocean user
21 education; and



1 (E) Incorporate climate adaptation measures into the
2 majority of county planning and permitting
3 processes;

4 (3) Effectively managing thirty per cent of nearshore
5 ocean water, pursuant to the goals of the Sustainable
6 Hawai'i Initiative, and removing or preventing threat
7 material, including sediment, invasive species, and
8 marine debris, from entering nearshore marine
9 habitats;

10 (4) By 2020, effectively regulating harvesting; ending
11 overfishing, illegal, unreported, unregulated, and
12 destructive fishing practices; and implementing
13 science-based management plans, in order to restore
14 fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to
15 levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as
16 determined by their biological characteristics;

17 (5) By 2020, prohibiting certain forms of fisheries
18 subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and
19 overfishing; eliminating subsidies that contribute to
20 illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and
21 refraining from introducing new such subsidies;



- 1 (6) Minimizing and addressing the impacts of ocean
2 acidification, including through enhanced scientific
3 cooperation at all levels;
- 4 (7) Conserving at least thirty per cent of coastal and
5 marine areas, consistent with state, national, and
6 international law and based on the best available
7 scientific information;
- 8 (8) Increasing scientific knowledge, developing research
9 capacity, and transferring marine technology to
10 improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution
11 of marine biodiversity; and
- 12 (9) Providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to
13 marine resources and markets."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



S.B. NO. 2675 S.D. 1

Report Title:

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal Fourteen; Life Below Water

Description:

Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal fourteen, life below water. (SD1)

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