

---

# 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.

3 Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, established a  
4 Hawaii 2050 task force to review the Hawaii state plan and other  
5 fundamental components of community planning, resulting in the  
6 2050 Hawaii Sustainability Plan that outlined the following  
7 goals and principles to be achieved by 2050:

- 8 (1) A way of life - living sustainably is part of our  
9 daily practice in Hawaii;
- 10 (2) The economy - our diversified and globally competitive  
11 economy enables us to meaningfully live, work, and  
12 play in Hawaii;
- 13 (3) Environment and natural resources - our natural  
14 resources are responsibly and respectfully used,  
15 replenished, and preserved for future generations;
- 16 (4) Community and social well-being - our community is  
17 strong, healthy, vibrant, and nurturing, providing  
18 safety nets for those in need; and
- 19 (5) Kanaka maoli and island values - our kanaka maoli and  
20 island cultures and values are thriving and  
21 perpetuated.



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

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

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

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

19 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of  
20 natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing  
21 freshwater security, watershed protection, community-



1 based marine management, invasive species control, and  
2 restoration of native species;

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

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

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

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

16 (1) Double local food production by 2020;

17 (2) Implement the State's interagency biosecurity plan by  
18 2027;

19 (3) Protect thirty per cent of the highest priority  
20 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 Hawaii Commitments presented to the World  
13 Conservation Congress in 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement  
14 have been adopted to guide global efforts. The sustainable  
15 development goals, otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for  
16 Sustainable Development, which were born at the United Nations  
17 Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012,  
18 and came into force in 2015, are a universal call to action to  
19 end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people  
20 enjoy peace and prosperity. The seventeen sustainable  
21 development goals are interconnected and work in the spirit of



1 partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to  
2 improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations.  
3 They provide a clear framework for action to guide countries in  
4 accordance with their own priorities and the environmental  
5 challenges of the world at large. They tackle the root causes  
6 of poverty and unite us to make a positive change for both  
7 people and 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, more than 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 Hawaii Commitments to achieve the  
21 transformation required to promote a "Culture of Conservation".



1 The Hawaii Commitments consist of seven identified challenges  
2 and proposed solutions, including:

3 (1) Linking spirituality, religion, culture, and  
4 conservation;

5 (2) Engaging and empowering youth;

6 (3) The challenge of sustaining the global food supply and  
7 conserving nature;

8 (4) The challenge of preserving the health of the world  
9 ocean;

10 (5) The challenge of ending wildlife trafficking;

11 (6) The challenge of engaging with the private sector; and

12 (7) The challenge of climate change.

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

17 In order for Hawaii to continue to serve as a starlight for  
18 the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and  
19 to serve as a global leader on issues of conservation and  
20 sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its  
21 full commitment to its own policies and goals, as well as the



1 goals set on the international stage at United Nations  
2 conferences and summits on sustainability.

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

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

12 "§226- Sustainable development goals; strengthening  
13 implementation. In pursuance of the State's sustainability  
14 goals, and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies  
15 shall, insofar as practicable, take action to assist the State  
16 in strengthening the means of implementation of the sustainable  
17 development goals in this chapter by 2030 by:

18 (1) Building on the experience and resourcing strategies  
19 of partnerships to encourage and promote effective  
20 public, public-private, and civil society  
21 partnerships;





- 1        (2) Mobilizing additional financial resources from  
2        multiple sources in furtherance of the State's  
3        sustainability goals;
- 4        (3) Significantly increasing investment in conservation  
5        action from both public and private sector sources,  
6        pursuant to the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i  
7        Commitments of 2016;
- 8        (4) Enhancing cooperation on and access to science,  
9        technology, and innovation, and enhancing knowledge-  
10       sharing on mutually agreed terms;
- 11       (5) Promoting the development, transfer, dissemination,  
12       and diffusion of technology and innovation that are  
13       shown to promote environmental conservation and  
14       sustainability;
- 15       (6) Strengthening domestic resource mobilization to  
16       improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue  
17       collection;
- 18       (7) Enhancing statewide macroeconomic stability, including  
19       through policy coordination and policy coherence;
- 20       (8) Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable  
21       development;



1        (9) Respecting each agency's policy and leadership space  
2        in order to establish and implement policies for  
3        poverty eradication and sustainable development;

4        (10) Enhancing capacity-building support to increase  
5        significantly the availability of high-quality,  
6        timely, and reliable data disaggregated by income,  
7        gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status,  
8        disability, geographic location, and other relevant  
9        characteristics; and

10       (11) Building on existing initiatives to develop  
11       measurements of progress on sustainable development  
12       that complement gross domestic product."

13       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal Seventeen; Strengthening Implementation

**Description:**

Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal seventeen, strengthening implementation.  
(SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

