
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is a unique
2 and beautiful state, a precious lei of islands amidst the
3 Pacific Ocean and unique as the only Pacific island state. For
4 many, it is the ideal place to live and has been second to none
5 for providing a preferred quality of life. It is the
6 government's responsibility to identify the goals of the State
7 that are important for present and future generations, to
8 improve and maintain the quality of life for individuals and
9 communities and the quality of the visitor experience.
10 Preserving Hawaii's values is the unifying theme of the Hawaii
11 state plan, which is intended to preserve and protect the
12 healthy social, economic, and physical environments that benefit
13 the community as a whole.

14 The Hawaii state plan states as one of its goals, "A
15 desired physical environment, characterized by beauty,
16 cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that
17 enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people". The



1 state plan objectives and policies for the physical environment
2 include planning to protect:

- 3 (1) Land-based, shoreline, and marine resources;
- 4 (2) Scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources; and
- 5 (3) Land, air, and water quality.

6 The Hawaii state plan also sets priority guidelines for planning
7 for population growth and land resources, including
8 identification of critical environmental areas in Hawaii.
9 Critical environmental areas include scenic and recreational
10 shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and
11 cultural sites, and scenic resources.

12 The legislature further finds that the lei of green was
13 first brought forth by the renowned national planner Lewis
14 Mumford to benefit the Territory of Hawaii, as a plan to link
15 Honolulu's green parks, open space, recreation areas, and
16 greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected
17 with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and climate control.

18 The lei of green was further emphasized by the Hawaii chapter of
19 the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1999 and
20 incorporated as a guiding principle in the Kakaako makai master
21 plan by the Hawaii community development authority in 2011. The



1 legislature finds that there is a need for coordination among
2 different agencies and levels of government in guiding the
3 future of the State to ensure the long-continued and intended
4 protection and preservation of the lei of green, consisting of
5 Honolulu's historic parks and green recreational open spaces as
6 an interconnected multi-use system.

7 The purpose of this Act is to include objectives and
8 policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei
9 of green in the Hawaii state plan.

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

13 "§226-A Objectives and policies for the physical
14 environment-lei of green. (a) Planning for the State's
15 physical environment with regard to the lei of green shall be
16 directed toward achievement of the following objectives:

- 17 (1) The protection and preservation of green public parks
18 and recreational open spaces within the lei of green;
19 (2) The expansion of greenways and shoreline promenades
20 interconnecting the lei of green from the Ala Wai



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1 recreational boat harbor and Kewalo Basin boat harbor
2 public lands to Honolulu harbor;

3 (3) The restoration, protection, and preservation of the
4 intrinsic elements of the lei of green; and

5 (4) The protection of the lei of green resources for the
6 immediate future and to perpetuate the lei of green to
7 benefit the public as an environmental legacy for
8 present and future generations.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section:

10 "Greenways" means a system of corridors of land or water
11 that connect and protect the natural, historic and cultural, and
12 recreational resources within the surrounding landscape and
13 communities.

14 "Lei of green" means the area of historic public parks and
15 recreational open spaces spanning from Diamond Head to Aloha
16 Tower, including Diamond Head state monument, Kapiolani regional
17 park, Ala Wai Golf Course, Ala Wai Canal, Fort DeRussy beach
18 park, Ala Moana regional park, Kewalo Basin park, Kakaako
19 waterfront park, Thomas Square, and Irwin memorial park."



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1 SECTION 3. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§226-B Lei of green. (a) The office shall implement the
5 lei of green policy, in coordination with appropriate state and
6 county departments. The office shall strive to:

7 (1) Ensure that the lei of green policy is a respected
8 guide for the restoration, protection, and
9 preservation of the anchor elements of the lei of
10 green, including its historic parks and historic
11 landscapes, recreational open spaces, and greenways
12 extending from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower; and

13 (2) Work closely with the county and the public to
14 implement the policy for state and county lands within
15 the lei of green.

16 (b) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Greenways" shall have the same meaning as in section
18 226-A.

19 "Historic landscape" means any park, recreational, or
20 cultural green open space listed on or eligible for the Hawaii
21 state register of historic places.



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Report Title:

Hawaii State Plan; Lei of Green

Description:

Includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii state plan.

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