
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that green infrastructure
2 is an approach to managing weather impacts that also delivers
3 environmental, social, climate, and economic benefits. Green
4 infrastructure planning aims to create a strategic network of
5 natural and semi-natural areas that protect and maintain
6 ecosystems in both urban and rural areas. Importantly, green
7 infrastructure can also be the basis of a smart growth approach
8 to development that cost effectively protects natural areas
9 while creating more sustainable communities.

10 Green infrastructure functions as a complement to "grey"
11 infrastructure, like pipelines and sewers. Green infrastructure
12 reduces and treats stormwater at its source and can maintain and
13 renew watersheds that host urban centers. Green infrastructure
14 practices, such as green roofs, rain gardens, permeable
15 pavement, and vegetation median strips, can provide solutions to
16 stormwater runoff at the neighborhood level.



1 The creation of green infrastructure plans at the state
2 level can generate strategies to enhance and preserve parks,
3 agriculture, forest lands, and coastal areas. State green
4 infrastructure plans can also identify where the State can save
5 on water management costs, decrease pollution, lower flooding
6 risks, and address climate change.

7 Currently, there is no defined system to determine the most
8 effective use of green infrastructure in Hawaii. Without green
9 infrastructure planning, the State risks losing valuable
10 opportunities to cost effectively preserve the State's
11 environment and increase quality of life for residents.

12 The legislature finds that a holistic and comprehensive
13 green infrastructure study and plan will be of great benefit to
14 the State and its environment. The legislature also finds that
15 the state sustainability coordinator of the office of planning
16 is well-positioned to undertake and coordinate activities
17 relating to green infrastructure planning and development and to
18 work with various stakeholders and the public to further the
19 State's sustainability goals.

20 The purpose of this Act is to require and appropriate funds
21 for the state sustainability coordinator to complete a holistic



1 and comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure
2 opportunities in the State.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The state sustainability coordinator of
4 the office of planning shall complete a holistic and
5 comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure
6 opportunities in the State.

7 (b) The green infrastructure study and plan shall:

- 8 (1) Identify green infrastructure opportunities in the
9 State at the state, regional, and neighborhood levels,
10 including any related costs and savings;
- 11 (2) Identify green infrastructure planning and development
12 best practices at the state, regional, and
13 neighborhood levels for potential application in the
14 State, including financing and community engagement
15 practices;
- 16 (3) Complete a plan that details how the State can move
17 forward to cost effectively take advantage of
18 identified opportunities, including any related costs
19 and savings; and
- 20 (4) Identify any legal or regulatory changes that will be
21 needed to execute the completed plan.



1 (c) The state sustainability coordinator of the office of
2 planning shall submit a progress report and a final report of
3 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
4 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
5 to the convening of the regular session of 2021, and regular
6 session of 2022, respectively.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
10 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
11 2020-2021 for the state sustainability coordinator of the office
12 of planning to complete a holistic and comprehensive green
13 infrastructure study and plan for the State.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
15 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
16 of this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2100.



Report Title:

Green Infrastructure Study and Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the State Sustainability Coordinator of the Office of Planning to complete a holistic and comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure opportunities in the State.

Appropriates funds to complete the green infrastructure study and plan. (HB588 HD1)

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