
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 land and natural resources protects about 1,300,000 acres of
3 public lands in forests, parks, and outdoor recreation areas,
4 and 3,000,000 acres of state ocean waters, coasts, fisheries,
5 and boating areas. The division of conservation and resources
6 enforcement patrols the majority of department of land and
7 natural resources lands and enforces the laws that manage,
8 protect, and conserve Hawaii's natural resources for the
9 1,400,000 residents and 8,000,000 visitors that utilize these
10 areas annually.

11 The legislature further finds that the large quantity, high
12 usage, and geographic distribution of Hawaii's public lands and
13 water present the division of conservation and resources
14 enforcement with consistent challenges related to providing
15 effective and timely enforcement activities on a limited budget.
16 The legislature supports the department of land and natural
17 resources and division of conservation and resources enforcement



1 in exploring creative methods to leverage technology and engage
2 local communities to support the conservation of protected
3 areas, including the DLNRTip app, which launched in June 2017.

4 DLNRTip is a free, smartphone-based application that allows
5 community members to anonymously report violations on public
6 lands to the department of land and natural resources. When
7 submitting a tip, a user includes the subject, location, and any
8 helpful photos or videos of the violation. The DLNRTip app is
9 accessible to anyone and allows user to quickly and anonymously
10 report illegal acts. However, the DLNRTip app suffers from the
11 absence of backend database management and analytics processing.
12 The legislature finds that additional funding is needed to
13 enable database management and analytics processing to address
14 the DLNRTip app's existing weaknesses and enhance the department
15 of land and natural resource's ability to efficiently enforce
16 violations.

17 The legislature aims to increase rates of reporting
18 information and statistics about criminal activity within the
19 State to the division of conservation and resources enforcement
20 by implementing a comprehensive data reporting and analytics
21 system through the DLNRTip app. A proper data management and



1 processing system will enable the division of conservation and
 2 resources enforcement to more efficiently track and monitor
 3 crime in specific areas and allocate limited conservation and
 4 enforcement resources to high-risk areas. This will reduce
 5 crimes such as misuse of state lands, violations of wildlife
 6 species conservation and oceanic recreation laws, and other
 7 crimes under the department of land and natural resources'
 8 jurisdiction.

9 The purpose of this Act is to enhance the functionality and
 10 usefulness of the DLNRTip app by providing funding for a DLNRTip
 11 app administrator, software upgrades, and app enhancements.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
 15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 16 2020-2021 to be allocated as follows:

- 17 (1) \$ for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
 18 DLNRTip app administrator position; and
- 19 (2) \$ for DLNRTip app software upgrades and app
 20 enhancements, such as geotagging, two-way messaging,
 21 data analysis, and emergency alerts.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2049.



Report Title:

Conservation; Resources Enforcement; DLNRTip App; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for one DLNRTip app administrator position, software upgrades, and app enhancements to improve the DLNRTip app. (SB1526 HD1)

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