

JAN 17 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since western  
2 contact, Hawaii has lost nearly half of its native forest cover  
3 and the State's forests continue to be reduced by invasive  
4 species and wildfires. In recent years, Hawaii's cities have  
5 also experienced a dramatic decline in their urban tree cover,  
6 with Honolulu seeing a five per cent decline of its urban tree  
7 cover in less than a four-year period.

8           The legislature further finds that Act 15, Session Laws of  
9 Hawaii 2018, among other things, sets a goal for the State to  
10 achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. A tree planting program will  
11 assist the State in reaching this goal. In 2016, urban trees in  
12 Hawaii were estimated to sequester 410,000 metric tons of carbon  
13 dioxide equivalents annually—equal to the annual emissions of  
14 eighty-nine thousand cars. However, state and county lands  
15 cannot accommodate all the necessary tree plantings needed to  
16 achieve carbon neutrality. Community partnerships are therefore



1 essential to meet the goal of carbon neutrality and improve the  
2 quality of life in Hawaii for present and future generations.

3       The legislature also finds that department of land and  
4 natural resources has implemented the Kaulunani urban and  
5 community forestry program with support from the United States  
6 Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The United States  
7 Department of Agriculture grants approximately \$200,000 annually  
8 for administering the state urban and community forestry  
9 program. The program supports statewide community-based, cost-  
10 share programs, including community-based tree planting  
11 projects. However, program funds are not sufficient to support  
12 all of the projects that seek funding, including a tree planting  
13 program.

14       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
15 establishment of a tree planting program, to be implemented by  
16 the Kaulunani urban and community forestry program within the  
17 department of land and natural resources' division of forestry  
18 and wildlife, including the establishment of a community  
19 partnership coordinator position.

20       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
 2 purposes of establishing a tree planting program, to be  
 3 implemented by the Kaulunani urban and community forestry  
 4 program within the department of land and natural resources'  
 5 division of forestry and wildlife, including the establishment  
 6 of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) community partnership  
 7 coordinator position; provided that no funds shall be made  
 8 available under this Act unless funds are matched or leveraged  
 9 by the Kaulunani community grant program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
 11 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 2440

**Report Title:**

Climate Change; Carbon Neutrality; Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program; Tree Planting Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the establishment of a tree planting program, to be implemented by the Kaulunani urban and community forestry program within the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, including the establishment of a community partnership coordinator position.

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