

JAN 17 2020

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORESTRY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under the Hawai'i  
2 sustainability initiative, the State of Hawai'i has committed to  
3 integrated sustainability goals, including increasing the  
4 State's climate resiliency, as well as supporting and increasing  
5 local food production.

6           The legislature finds that numerous sources, both  
7 internationally and nationally, have recognized the importance  
8 of healthy soils as a critical resource for supplying food  
9 security, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate  
10 resiliency. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization  
11 of the United Nations and nations around the world, including  
12 the United States Department of Agriculture, celebrated 2015 as  
13 the International Year of Soils to highlight the necessity of  
14 healthy soil for food security and ecosystem resilience against  
15 climate change. Similarly, recognizing the importance of  
16 healthy soil to climate resiliency and food security, many



1 states around the country have launched initiatives to incentive  
2 building soil organic matter and improving soil health.

3 The legislature finds that trees have an important function  
4 in improving soil health and building climate-resiliency for  
5 Hawai'i's environment, including its agricultural landscapes.

6 The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the  
7 United States Department of Agriculture, has identified  
8 agroforestry as a unique land management approach that  
9 intentionally blends agriculture and forestry to enhance  
10 productivity, profitability, and environmental stewardship.

11 According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service,  
12 the strategic planting of trees in agriculture landscapes may  
13 increase crop yield, improve soil health, provide habitat for  
14 wildlife, and provide a variety of other benefits.

15 The division of forestry and wildlife of the department of  
16 land and natural resources manages a state tree nursery that  
17 aims to provide high quality native, endangered and windbreak  
18 trees and plants for the public and department of land and  
19 natural resources plantings and reforestation projects.

20 The legislature further finds that there is a need to  
21 , update and expand the resources available to the state tree



1 nursery, including increasing the available selections of tree  
2 and plants that provide beneficial functions in agricultural  
3 production.

4 The purpose of this Act is to increase the availability of  
5 tree stocks for agroforestry and soil health in the State by  
6 expanding the tree and plant stock available to the public  
7 through the state tree nursery.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 195F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
10 and to read as follows:

11 "(c) There is to be established within the department of  
12 land and natural resources a state tree nursery special fund for  
13 the following purposes:

14 (1) Working in collaboration with appropriate  
15 stakeholders, including but not limited to the  
16 greenhouse gas sequestration taskforce and researchers  
17 from the College of Tropical Agriculture, expand and  
18 increase the existing plant stocks of the state tree  
19 nursery to include a wider range of native trees and  
20 plant species identified by the division of forestry  
21 and wildlife to be beneficial in the agricultural



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1           setting for improving agricultural productivity and  
2           improving soil health;

3           (2) Invest in renovation and update the equipment and  
4           facilities of the state tree nursery to expand its  
5           capacity to provide clean planting materials for a  
6           variety of public and private projects; and

7           (3) Invest in public outreach and education regarding the  
8           benefits of trees and plants in providing soil health  
9           and their appropriate uses in the agricultural  
10           setting."

11           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be  
14 deposited into the state tree nursery special fund.

15           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the state tree  
16 nursery special fund the sum of \$                    or so much thereof  
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the state tree  
18 nursery.

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



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1 SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act, or the  
 2 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
 3 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
 4 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
 5 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
 6 of this Act are severable.

7 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



*Clarence A. Fischer*



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*[unclear]*

*[unclear]*



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**Report Title:**

Soil Health; Forestry; Plant; State Tree Nursery; DLNR

**Description:**

Establishes a fund to increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nursery.

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

