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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, nations around the world, and other  
12 agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture,  
13 celebrated 2015 as the International Year of Soils to highlight  
14 the necessity of healthy soil for food security and ecosystem  
15 resilience against climate change. Similarly, recognizing the  
16 importance of healthy soil to climate resiliency and food  
17 security, many states around the country have launched



1 initiatives to incentive building soil organic matter and  
2 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 appropriate funds for the  
5 forest stewardship program to increase the existing plant  
6 stocks, invest in public outreach and renovate the equipment and  
7 facilities of the state tree nursery.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
11 the forest stewardship program to use for the following  
12 purposes:

- 13 (1) To work in collaboration with appropriate  
14 stakeholders, including but not limited to the  
15 greenhouse gas sequestration taskforce, researchers  
16 from the College of Tropical Agriculture, and the  
17 United States Department of Agriculture National  
18 Resource Conservation Service, to expand and increase  
19 the existing plant stocks of the state tree nursery to  
20 include a wider range of native trees and plant  
21 species identified by the division of forestry and



1 wildlife to be beneficial in the agricultural setting  
2 for improving agricultural productivity and improving  
3 soil health;

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

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

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

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
15 2033.

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**Report Title:**

Forestry; Tree Nursery; DLNR; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the forest stewardship program to increase the existing plant stocks, invest in public outreach and renovate the equipment and facilities of the state tree nursery. Effective date 12/31/33. (SD1)

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