
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that visitors are
2 attracted to Hawaii because of the State's natural beauty,
3 natural resources, cultural resources, and historical sites.
4 However, many of these sites are overwhelmed by the sheer number
5 of visitors and residents who flock to these sites during their
6 stay in Hawaii.

7 The legislature acknowledges the work of the Hawaii tourism
8 authority and its subcontractors who have developed destination
9 management plans for each county. Each destination management
10 plan has identified hotspots that attract visitors due to their
11 popularity, which may result in overcrowding, congestion,
12 degradation of resources, safety hazards, and a negative
13 experience for residents and visitors.

14 The legislature further finds that many of the hotspots in
15 each county are trailheads leading to hiking trails of Na Ala
16 Hele, the State's trail and access program, which is maintained
17 by the department of land and natural resources' division of



1 forestry and wildlife. While progress is being made to address
2 action items in the destination management plans, very little
3 progress is being made to address the hotspots.

4 The legislature recognizes that it is the role of the
5 division of forestry and wildlife, not the Hawaii tourism
6 authority, to address hotspots relating to trailheads. With the
7 dramatic increase in trail use, intensified by residents who
8 escaped to the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic and
9 visitors exposed to the trails via social media influences,
10 additional resources are needed to manage the destination. The
11 lack of staffing to address these hotspots leads to residents
12 complaining about blocked driveways, illegal parking on state
13 and county roadways, lack of restroom facilities, constant
14 noise, lack of on-street parking for residential use, use of
15 residential water hoses to clean up, and use of residential
16 yards to gather and unwind from the day's activities.

17 The legislature also finds that the division of forestry
18 and wildlife needs additional personnel and resources to
19 prioritize hotspots relating to trails and access, work with
20 affected residents, identify alternative solutions, coordinate
21 with state and county agencies, work with community



1 organizations, raise funds, and implement solutions. The
2 legislature additionally finds that based on the successful
3 Haena state park model, solutions may take several years to
4 implement.

5 The legislature notes that although revenues from the
6 transient accommodations tax generated \$738,000,000 in fiscal
7 year 2022, only about \$2,600,000 was used in general funds,
8 special funds, and Hawaii tourism authority funds for personnel
9 and operating costs to cover the one hundred thirty-eight Na Ala
10 Hele-maintained trails throughout Hawaii.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
12 operations and personnel of the department of land and natural
13 resources' division of forestry and wildlife to manage hotspots
14 at trailheads as part of the Na Ala Hele trail and access
15 program.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
20 year 2024-2025 to be used as follows:

21 (1) \$ for office, safety, and field supplies;



- 1 (2) \$ for four four-wheel drive vehicles;
- 2 (3) \$ for planning consultant contracts;
- 3 (4) \$ for the establishment of one full-time
- 4 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent planner V position on
- 5 Oahu;
- 6 (5) \$ for the establishment of three full-time
- 7 equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent specialist IV
- 8 positions; provided that one position each shall be
- 9 assigned to Maui, Oahu, and Kauai;
- 10 (6) \$ for the establishment of one full-time
- 11 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent technician position on
- 12 Kauai; and
- 13 (7) \$ for the establishment of one full-time
- 14 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent abstractor position on
- 15 Oahu.

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

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



Report Title:

DLNR; Na Ala Hele Program; Trails; Operating Costs; Positions;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for operating costs and personnel to manage certain trailheads as part of the Na Ala Hele trail and access program. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

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