
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 the nearshore marine
2 resources of the State are increasingly affected by both local
3 and global stressors, indicating that current state management
4 measures may be insufficient for ensuring long-term
5 sustainability.

6 The legislature further finds that the makai watch program
7 was designed to enhance collaboration and minimize conflicts
8 among nearshore resource users. Since its inception in the
9 early 2000s, the program has effectively connected community
10 stewards with government agencies, fostering positive
11 relationships and meaningful engagement. The outcomes of the
12 program include heightened awareness of relevant regulations and
13 ecosystem conditions within designated areas, along with
14 improved collaboration among makai watch, the department of land
15 and natural resources' division of conservation and resources
16 enforcement, division of aquatic resources, division of boating
17 and ocean recreation, and the communities they serve.



1 The legislature recognizes that makai watch continues to be
2 a vital and expanding resource for co-managing nearshore areas,
3 ensuring these ecosystems remain healthy and plentiful for both
4 current and future generations of Hawaii. Additionally,
5 community enthusiasm for enhanced co-managed stewardship is
6 strong across many of Hawaii's coastal communities, particularly
7 among Native Hawaiian groups and organizations. Therefore, the
8 legislature finds that expanding support for the makai watch
9 program is a priority for the State. Given the increasing human
10 population, expanded land use, and other rising threats to
11 marine resources, it is more crucial than ever to develop and
12 implement effective makai watch site programs and establish a
13 permanent statewide coordinator position.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide the
15 department of land and natural resources with the necessary
16 funds to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent
17 program specialist V position within the department and
18 successfully coordinate and to implement actions necessary to
19 meet the goals and objectives of the makai watch program.

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



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2026-2027 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent
4 (1.0 FTE) permanent program specialist V position within the
5 department of land and natural resources to support the ongoing
6 coordination and implementation of the makai watch program.

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

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Melina M. Papeo*

JAN 13 2025



Report Title:

DLNR; Makai Watch; Marine Resources; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent Makai Watch Coordinator position.

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