

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1148

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on May 14, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 1017, H.D. 1,
S.D. 1

RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS
SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE.
ACT 048

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GREENHOUSE GAS SEQUESTRATION TASK FORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 201-12.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) Subject to legislative appropriation, moneys from the
4 fund may be expended by the Hawaii state energy office for the
5 following purposes and used for no other purposes, except for
6 those set forth in this section:

7 (1) To support the Hawaii clean energy initiative program
8 and projects that promote and advance dependable and
9 affordable energy, renewable energy, energy
10 efficiency, energy self-sufficiency, and greater
11 energy security and resiliency for the State and
12 public facilities;

13 (2) To fund, to the extent possible, the climate change
14 mitigation and adaptation commission [~~and the~~
15 ~~greenhouse gas sequestration task force~~];

16 (3) To support achieving the zero emissions clean economy
17 target set forth in section 225P-5;



1 (4) To fund projects and incentives to promote the
2 adoption of clean transportation technologies, develop
3 clean vehicle charging infrastructure, and upgrade
4 infrastructure to support the development of clean
5 vehicle charging infrastructure; and

6 (5) To fund, to the extent possible, the duties of the
7 state building code council in section 107-24, as they
8 relate to the development of energy conservation
9 codes."

10 SECTION 2. Section 225P-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 repealed.

12 ~~["§225P-4 Greenhouse gas sequestration task force. (a)~~
13 ~~The greenhouse gas sequestration task force is established~~
14 ~~within the office of planning and sustainable development for~~
15 ~~administrative purposes only. The task force shall have the~~
16 ~~following objectives:~~

17 ~~(1) Work with public and private stakeholders to establish~~
18 ~~a baseline for greenhouse gas emissions within Hawaii~~
19 ~~and short and long term benchmarks for increasing~~
20 ~~greenhouse gas sequestration in the State's~~
21 ~~agricultural and natural environment;~~



- 1 ~~(2) Identify appropriate criteria to measure baseline~~
2 ~~levels and increases in greenhouse gas sequestration,~~
3 ~~improvements in soil health, increases in agricultural~~
4 ~~and aquacultural product yield and quality~~
5 ~~attributable to greenhouse gas sequestration and~~
6 ~~improvements in soil health, and other key indicators~~
7 ~~of greenhouse gas benefits from beneficial~~
8 ~~agricultural and aquacultural practices that may be~~
9 ~~used to create a certification program for promoting~~
10 ~~agricultural and aquacultural practices that generate~~
11 ~~greenhouse gas benefits and agricultural and~~
12 ~~aquacultural production benefits;~~
- 13 ~~(3) Identify land and marine use policies, agricultural~~
14 ~~policies, agroforestry policies, and mitigation~~
15 ~~options that would encourage agricultural and~~
16 ~~aquacultural practices and land use practices that~~
17 ~~would promote increased greenhouse gas sequestration,~~
18 ~~build healthy soils, and provide greenhouse gas~~
19 ~~benefits;~~
- 20 ~~(4) Identify ways to increase the generation and use of~~
21 ~~compost in Hawaii to build healthy soils;~~



- 1 ~~(5) Identify practices and policies that add trees or~~
2 ~~vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in urban~~
3 ~~areas to reduce ambient temperatures, increase climate~~
4 ~~resiliency, and improve greenhouse gas sequestration~~
5 ~~in Hawaii; and~~
- 6 ~~(6) Make recommendations to the legislature and governor~~
7 ~~regarding measures that would increase climate~~
8 ~~resiliency, build healthy soils, provide greenhouse~~
9 ~~gas benefits, or cool urban areas.~~
- 10 ~~(b) In addition to the objectives listed in subsection~~
11 ~~(a), the task force may consider:~~
- 12 ~~(1) Developing incentives and funding mechanisms for these~~
13 ~~incentives, including but not limited to:~~
- 14 ~~(A) Loans, tax credits, or grants;~~
15 ~~(B) Research;~~
16 ~~(C) Technical assistance; or~~
17 ~~(D) Educational materials and outreach,~~
18 ~~to participating agricultural activities,~~
19 ~~aquacultural activities, or on-farm demonstration~~
20 ~~projects that are identified and approved by the~~
21 ~~task force as those that would promote greenhouse~~



1 ~~gas benefits, build healthy soils, sequester~~
2 ~~carbon, increase water holding capacity, and~~
3 ~~increase crop yields; and~~

4 ~~(2) Providing for research, education, and technical~~
5 ~~support for agricultural activities and aquacultural~~
6 ~~activities identified by the task force.~~

7 ~~(c) The membership of the greenhouse gas sequestration~~
8 ~~task force shall be as follows:~~

9 ~~(1) The director of the office of planning and sustainable~~
10 ~~development or the director's designee, who shall~~
11 ~~serve as chairperson;~~

12 ~~(2) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the~~
13 ~~chairperson's designee;~~

14 ~~(3) The chairperson of the board of land and natural~~
15 ~~resources or the chairperson's designee;~~

16 ~~(4) The director of transportation or the director's~~
17 ~~designee;~~

18 ~~(5) The deputy director of the department of health's~~
19 ~~environmental health administration or the deputy~~
20 ~~director's designee;~~

21 ~~(6) The state sustainability coordinator;~~



- 1 ~~(7) The director of the environmental law program at the~~
2 ~~University of Hawaii at Manoa William S. Richardson~~
3 ~~school of law;~~
- 4 ~~(8) The administrator of the division of forestry and~~
5 ~~wildlife within the department of land and natural~~
6 ~~resources or the administrator's designee;~~
- 7 ~~(9) One member who is also a member of the climate change~~
8 ~~mitigation and adaptation commission;~~
- 9 ~~(10) One researcher from the college of tropical~~
10 ~~agriculture and human resources at the University of~~
11 ~~Hawaii at Manoa;~~
- 12 ~~(11) One extension agent from the college of tropical~~
13 ~~agriculture and human resources at the University of~~
14 ~~Hawaii at Manoa;~~
- 15 ~~(12) Four members, one each to be appointed by the~~
16 ~~respective mayors of the city and county of Honolulu,~~
17 ~~and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; and~~
- 18 ~~(13) Four members to be jointly selected and invited to~~
19 ~~participate by the president of the senate and the~~
20 ~~speaker of the house of representatives, of which two~~
21 ~~members shall be selected from an environmental~~



1 ~~nonprofit organization, and two members shall be~~
2 ~~selected from an agricultural or ranching association.~~

3 ~~Task force members may recommend to the task force~~
4 ~~additional members with appropriate specialized expertise,~~
5 ~~subject to approval by the chairperson.~~

6 ~~(d) Members of the task force shall be nominated and~~
7 ~~appointed pursuant to, and subject to section 26-34 and shall~~
8 ~~serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for~~
9 ~~reasonable expenses necessary for the performance of their~~
10 ~~duties, including travel expenses.~~

11 ~~(e) The greenhouse gas sequestration task force shall:~~

12 ~~(1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and~~
13 ~~recommendations, including any proposed legislation,~~
14 ~~to the legislature and the climate change mitigation~~
15 ~~and adaptation commission no later than twenty days~~
16 ~~prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023;~~
17 ~~provided that the preliminary report shall discuss the~~
18 ~~objectives and issues listed in subsections (a) and~~
19 ~~(b), including the following:~~

20 ~~(A) Types of agricultural and aquacultural practices,~~
21 ~~public land and marine use policies, and on-farm~~



- 1 ~~managing practices that would provide greenhouse~~
2 ~~gas benefits and result in tangible economic~~
3 ~~benefits to agricultural and aquacultural~~
4 ~~operations;~~
- 5 ~~(B) Short-term and long-term benchmarks that would~~
6 ~~indicate how effectively agricultural and~~
7 ~~aquacultural activities have been helping the~~
8 ~~State to reach greenhouse gas neutrality;~~
- 9 ~~(C) Appropriate criteria that may be used in a~~
10 ~~certification program to measure baseline levels~~
11 ~~and increases in carbon sequestration,~~
12 ~~improvements in soil health, and other key~~
13 ~~indicators of greenhouse gas benefits from~~
14 ~~beneficial agricultural and aquacultural~~
15 ~~practices;~~
- 16 ~~(D) Types of incentives, grants, research, and~~
17 ~~assistance that would promote:~~
- 18 ~~(i) Agricultural and aquacultural practices to~~
19 ~~produce greenhouse gas benefits; and~~
- 20 ~~(ii) Land and marine use policies and~~
21 ~~agricultural policies that would encourage~~



1 ~~agricultural, aquacultural, and land use~~
2 ~~practices to provide greenhouse gas benefits~~
3 ~~and result in tangible economic benefits to~~
4 ~~agricultural and aquacultural operations;~~
5 ~~and~~

6 ~~(E) Practices and policies that add trees or~~
7 ~~vegetation to expand the urban tree canopy in~~
8 ~~urban areas to reduce ambient temperatures and~~
9 ~~increase climate resiliency and improve~~
10 ~~greenhouse gas sequestration in Hawaii; and~~

11 ~~(2) Beginning with the regular session of 2024, submit an~~
12 ~~annual report of its findings and recommendations,~~
13 ~~including any proposed legislation, to the legislature~~
14 ~~and the climate change mitigation and adaptation~~
15 ~~commission no later than twenty days prior to the~~
16 ~~convening of each regular session.~~

17 ~~(f) The office of planning and sustainable development~~
18 ~~shall provide administrative and clerical support required by~~
19 ~~the task force."]~~

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 1017
H.D. 1
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 14th day of May, 2025

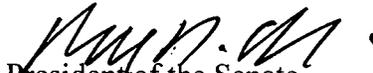
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and the last name "Green" clearly distinguishable.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 8, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate

HB No. 1017, HD 1, SD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 21, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives