

ACT 166

H.B. NO. 1068

A Bill for an Act Relating to Heeia State Park.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has coordinated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to nominate Heeia estuary as a national estuarine research reserve. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of twenty-nine protected areas along America's coastlines that was founded on the principle that long-term protection of representative estuaries provides stable platforms for research, education, and management practices that benefit the nation's coasts. In 2012, the office of planning was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the selection of a National Estuarine Research Reserve System site in Hawaii. In 2014, Heeia was officially nominated as a national estuarine research reserve to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's policy encouraging expansion of the program in unrepresented areas of the country. The Heeia estuary site includes Heeia state park, Heeia fishpond, and the Heeia community development district, as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs and Moku o Loe (Coconut Island). In order to be a success within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, a community-based long-range plan for Heeia state park must be developed.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for and require the involvement of community members and organizations in the development of a Heeia state park community-based long-range plan for the Heeia National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

SECTION 2. To ensure the involvement of key community stakeholders in this planning process, the Hawaii community development authority and any entity designated by the Hawaii community development authority to manage the Heeia state park shall invite and consult with the following entities or individuals in the development process of the Heeia state park community-based long-range plan for the Heeia National Estuarine Research Reserve System:

- (1) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- (2) The department of land and natural resources;
- (3) Hawaii institute of marine biology of the University of Hawaii;
- (4) Kakoo Oiwī;
- (5) Paepae o Heeia;
- (6) Koolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club;
- (7) Koolau Foundation;
- (8) A representative of the Kaneohe neighborhood board to be appointed by the chair of the Kaneohe neighborhood board; and

- (9) A representative of the Kahaluu neighborhood board to be appointed by the chair of the Kahaluu neighborhood board.

**SECTION 3.** There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 for the Heeia state park community-based long-range plan for the Heeia National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

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

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

(Approved June 27, 2019.)