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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hotter temperatures  
2 induced by climate change affect a student's ability to play,  
3 gather, and learn outside while attending school. To reduce the  
4 effect of hotter temperatures on students at department of  
5 education schools, the department can take a more proactive  
6 approach to increase the tree canopy on school campuses. In  
7 addition to lowering the temperature on campuses through shade,  
8 transpiration, and reduction of the heat island effect, trees  
9 will also absorb storm water, clean the air, beautify campuses,  
10 and help reach county and state environmental goals.

11 Furthermore, planting and caring for trees on campuses provide a  
12 multitude of learning opportunities, including learning the role  
13 trees play in the overall health of the ecosystem, cultural uses  
14 of indigenous trees, tree propagation and care, and commercial  
15 uses of trees.

16           The legislature further finds that, during the regular  
17 session of 2021, the legislature adopted House Concurrent



1 Resolution No. 68, which requested that the department of  
2 education create a landscape management plan with goals to  
3 increase tree canopies on public school grounds, document  
4 existing inventory and talent, and identify additional resources  
5 required to implement and sustain the plan.

6 The department of education facilities development branch  
7 has subcontracted a thorough professional inventory of campus  
8 trees. The inventory includes digital maps and information on  
9 each tree, including a risk assessment, note of structural  
10 defects, entity assigned responsibility for maintenance, pruning  
11 contracts, and contact for emergency help. At the end of 2021,  
12 seventeen school inventories were completed and an additional  
13 two or three will be added each month going forward. The  
14 inventory will be used to identify schools with few trees and  
15 allow landscape architects to identify good spots for new trees.

16 The legislature additionally finds that the department of  
17 education can utilize the opportunity for managing the tree  
18 inventory as an educational opportunity. There are thirty-four  
19 existing agriculture and natural resource programs in schools  
20 statewide that are of different sizes and educate different  
21 grades. These agriculture and natural resource programs can



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1 support educational activities and encourage propagation of  
2 native or fruit trees that can be planted and shared with  
3 department of education schools and communities.

4       The legislature also finds that the department of education  
5 needs further personnel to manage the tree inventory. The  
6 department of education has one full-time arborist who is  
7 responsible for overseeing all trees on all campuses statewide.  
8 An additional full-time arborist will increase the ability of  
9 the department of education to manage the existing tree  
10 inventory and add the right trees in the right places so that  
11 the tree canopy will be expanded in a manner that is safe,  
12 prevents damage to infrastructure, prevents liability for the  
13 school and department of education, and maintains open outdoor  
14 space for school use.

15       The purpose of this Act is to:

- 16       (1) Establish the shade and fruit tree program in the  
17           department of education; and  
18       (2) Appropriate funds for the shade and fruit tree program  
19           and for an arborist position to support the program.

20       SECTION 2. There is established in the department of  
21 education a shade and fruit tree program that may:



- 1           (1) Utilize existing agriculture and natural resource  
2           programs in schools and establish further agriculture  
3           and natural resource programs in other schools to  
4           educate students and propagate native shade trees and  
5           fruit trees, which shall be planted or shared amongst  
6           all department schools;
- 7           (2) Support schools with infrastructure and supplies to  
8           establish nurseries for native shade tree and fruit  
9           tree seedlings;
- 10          (3) Encourage the propagation of native shade trees and  
11          fruit trees appropriate to each school's climate;
- 12          (4) Oversee the variety of native trees and fruit trees  
13          for school planting and ensure their supply; and
- 14          (5) Encourage the inclusion of students of all grades and  
15          ages to participate in the care of native trees and  
16          fruit trees.

17          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



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1 year 2024-2025 for the administration of the shade and fruit  
2 tree program established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2024-2025 for the department of education to establish and  
10 hire one full-time equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent arborist  
11 position.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
13 of education for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023;  
15 provided that section 2 of this Act shall take effect on  
16 January 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2023



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**Report Title:**

DOE; Shade and Fruit Tree Program; Arborist; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the shade and fruit tree program beginning on 1/1/2024 in the department of education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native shade trees and fruit trees for planting in department schools. Appropriates funds for the program and to establish an arborist position.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

