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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATIVE POLLINATORS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's native  
2 pollinators are facing the threat of extinction. Decreasing  
3 populations of native pollinators have cascading impacts on  
4 Hawaii's environment and biological diversity. While non-native  
5 pollinators are important, native species of essential  
6 pollinators, such as the nalo meli maoli or yellow-faced bee,  
7 are able to cross-fertilize better with native plants that are  
8 facing similar threats of extinction. Nalo meli maoli, as well  
9 as other native pollinators, have very close plant associations  
10 and display strong morphological and behavioral adaptations to  
11 native plant species. The loss of these native pollinators  
12 therefore further endangers native plants and ecosystems that  
13 are already vulnerable, and in a dangerous cycle, the loss of  
14 native plant habitats further impacts native pollinator  
15 populations.

16           The legislature also finds that preserving native  
17 ecosystems is crucial for the perpetuation of Hawaiian culture,



1 as flora and fauna play important roles in ceremony, medicine,  
2 food, and other cultural practices.

3 The legislature further finds that state institutions must  
4 play a role in nurturing ecosystems that support native plants  
5 and pollinators. The University of Hawaii is well positioned to  
6 create these ecosystems on its campuses. This work is aligned  
7 with the University of Hawaii System's 2023-2029 Strategic Plan,  
8 which highlights sustainability as a foundational principle and  
9 upholds the University system's "responsibility to the 'āina  
10 through its own practices, through education, and by developing  
11 solutions to the complex global challenges of climate change,  
12 sustainability, and resilience".

13 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to support the  
14 revitalization of native pollinators by requiring the University  
15 of Hawaii to create native pollinator habitats on campuses  
16 across the University of Hawaii system.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
19 and to read as follows:

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# H.B. NO. 876

**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Native Pollinator Habitats

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii to develop native pollinator habitats to be deployed on all campuses in the University system.

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

