

JAN 25 2023

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# 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 visitors are  
2 attracted to Hawaii because of the State's natural beauty,  
3 natural resources, cultural resources, and historical sites.  
4 However, many of these sites are overwhelmed by the sheer number  
5 of visitors and residents who flock to these sites during their  
6 stay in Hawaii.

7           The legislature acknowledges the work of the Hawaii tourism  
8 authority and their subcontractors who have developed  
9 destination management plans for each county. Each destination  
10 management plan has identified hot spots that attract visitors  
11 due to their popularity, which may result in overcrowding,  
12 congestion, degradation of resources, safety hazards, and a  
13 negative experience for residents and visitors.

14           The legislature further finds that many of the hotspots in  
15 each county are trailheads leading to hiking trails of Na Ala  
16 Hele, the State's trail and access program, which is maintained  
17 by the department of land and natural resources' division of



1 forestry and wildlife. While progress is being made to address  
2 action items in the destination management plans, very little  
3 progress is being made to address the hotspots.

4 The legislature recognizes that it is the role of the  
5 division of forestry and wildlife, not the Hawaii tourism  
6 authority, to address hotspots relating to trailheads. With the  
7 dramatic increase in trail use, intensified by residents who  
8 escaped to the outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic and  
9 visitors exposed to the trails via social media influences,  
10 additional resources are needed to manage the destination. The  
11 lack of staffing to address these hotspots leads to residents  
12 complaining about blocked driveways, illegal parking on state  
13 and county roadways, lack of restroom facilities, constant  
14 noise, lack of on-street parking for residential use, use of  
15 residential water hoses to clean up, and use of residential  
16 yards to gather and unwind from the day's activities.

17 The legislature also finds that the division of forestry  
18 and wildlife needs additional personnel and resources to  
19 prioritize hotspots relating to trails and access, work with  
20 affected residents, identify alternative solutions, coordinate  
21 with state and county agencies, work with community



1 organizations, raise funds, and implement solutions. The  
2 legislature additionally finds that, based on the successful  
3 Haena state park model, solutions may take several years to  
4 implement.

5 The legislature notes that although revenues from the  
6 transient accommodations tax generated \$738,000,000 in fiscal  
7 year 2022, only about \$2,600,000 was used in general funds,  
8 special funds, and Hawaii tourism authority funds for personnel  
9 and operating costs to cover the one hundred thirty-eight Na Ala  
10 Hele maintained trails throughout Hawaii.

11 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
12 operations and personnel of the department of land and natural  
13 resources' division of forestry and wildlife to manage hotspots  
14 at trailheads as part of the Na Ala Hele trail and access  
15 program.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,385,044 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
20 2024-2025 to be used as follows:

21 (1) \$30,000 for office, safety, and field supplies;



- 1           (2)   \$200,000 for four four-wheel drive vehicles;
- 2           (3)   \$800,000 for planning consultant contracts;
- 3           (4)   \$68,556 for the establishment of one full-time
- 4                    equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent planner V position on
- 5                    Oahu;
- 6           (5)   \$182,736 for the establishment of three full-time
- 7                    equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent specialist IV
- 8                    positions; provided that one position shall be
- 9                    assigned each to Maui, Oahu, and Kauai;
- 10          (6)   \$42,840 for the establishment of one full-time
- 11                    equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent technician position on
- 12                    Kauai; and
- 13          (7)   \$60,912 for the establishment of one full-time
- 14                    equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent abstractor position on
- 15                    Oahu.

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

18           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.





# S.B. NO. 1549

**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Na Ala Hele Program;  
Trails; Operating Costs; Positions; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources for operating costs and personnel to manage certain trailheads as part of the Na Ala Hele trail and access program.

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

