
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ALA WAI CANAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Ala Wai canal
2 was built in the 1920s and is the largest artificial waterway in
3 the State. Floating debris in the canal has been a persistent
4 problem, which severely harms recreational users and the State's
5 aquatic habitats in nearshore waters. In October 2024, heavy
6 rain in the watershed area caused serious concerns for
7 downstream tenants, including those at the Ala Wai small boat
8 harbor. The legislature recognizes that the division of boating
9 and ocean recreation management has spent hundreds of thousands
10 of dollars to collect and dispose of the floating debris at the
11 Ala Wai small boat harbor. However, more funding and assistance
12 is needed to better manage the floating debris in the Ala Wai
13 canal.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
15 funds to the university of Hawaii to:



1 (1) Develop an action plan and pre-engineering concept to
2 help with debris management and water quality control
3 issues in the Ala Wai watershed; and

4 (2) Establish two graduate assistant positions to assist
5 with the action plan and pre-engineering concept plan.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
9 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2026-2027 for:

11 (1) The development of an action plan and pre-engineering
12 concept plan to help with debris management and water
13 quality control in the Ala Wai watershed;

14 (2) The university of Hawaii to establish two graduate
15 assistant positions to assist with the action plan and
16 pre-engineering concept plan; and

17 (3) Partial summer overload support for faculty mentors
18 providing oversight of the student project teams.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university
20 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 31, 2050.



Report Title:

UH; Ala Wai Canal; Debris Management; Water Quality;
Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for the development of an action plan and pre-engineering concept plan to help with debris management and water quality control in the Ala Wai watershed. Effective 7/31/2050. (SD1)

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