
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOREST STEWARDSHIP.

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

SECTION 1. Section 195F-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[+]§195F-1[+] Findings and purpose. The legislature finds that:

(1) Much of the forest land in Hawaii is privately owned[+] and managed;

(2) The capacity to protect important watersheds and native Hawaiian plants and animals and to produce renewable forest resources is significantly dependent on these privately ~~owned~~ managed forest and formerly forested lands;

(3) The factors essential to the quality of life in Hawaii, including our water and air quality, mild climate, and habitat available for plants and animals unique to these islands, can be maintained and improved through good stewardship of ~~[private]~~ privately managed forest lands;



1 (4) To accomplish these purposes, the present system of
2 state and federal financial and technical assistance
3 programs needs to be expanded to promote the long-term
4 management of additional privately [~~owned~~] managed
5 forest and formerly forested lands throughout the
6 State; and

7 (5) A forest stewardship program should be established to
8 supplement the natural area reserves system's programs
9 under chapter 195 by encouraging [~~private~~] landowners
10 of privately [~~owned~~] managed forest and formerly
11 forested lands that cannot qualify as potential
12 natural area reserves to make long-term commitments to
13 protect, maintain, and restore important watersheds,
14 timber resources, fish and wildlife habitats, isolated
15 populations of rare and endangered plants, native
16 vegetation, and other lands that provide significant
17 public benefits.

18 The purpose of this chapter is to establish a program to
19 financially assist landowners in managing, protecting, and
20 restoring important natural resources in Hawaii's forested and
21 formerly forested lands."



1 SECTION 2. Section 195F-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
3 and to read as follows:

4 "Program implementation agreement" means a written forest
5 stewardship management contract between the board and program
6 applicant."

7 SECTION 3. Section 195F-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

9 "(a) There is established a forest stewardship program to
10 be administered by the board to assist [~~private landowners in~~
11 ~~managing, protecting, and restoring~~] landowners of privately
12 managed forests to manage, protect, and restore important
13 watersheds, native vegetation, timber and other forest product
14 resources, fish and wildlife habitats, isolated populations of
15 rare and endangered plants, and other lands that are not
16 recognized as potential natural area reserves."

17 SECTION 4. Section 195F-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended as follows:

19 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

20 "(a) Payments from the forest stewardship fund shall not
21 exceed [~~fifty~~]:



1 (1) Seventy-five per cent of the total cost of the
2 landowner in developing [~~and implementing~~] an approved
3 management plan[-]; and

4 (2) Fifty per cent of the total cost of the landowner in
5 implementing an approved management plan.

6 Total payments to any one landowner shall be determined by the
7 board, and the reasonable value of material, goods, and services
8 contributed toward the management plan by the landowner shall be
9 included in determining the amount of the landowner's cost. The
10 landowner shall be required to spend private funds before
11 reimbursements are made. In-kind services such as heavy
12 equipment and existing sources of labor may be utilized as a
13 portion of the landowner's contribution in implementing the
14 management plan that is consistent with this chapter."

15 2. By amending subsections (c), (d), and (e) to read:

16 "(c) To receive funds under the forest stewardship
17 program, an applicant shall:

18 (1) Be a landowner of [~~private~~] a privately managed forest
19 that is not managed under existing federal, state, or
20 private sector financial and technical assistance
21 programs and that is not recognized as a potential



1 natural area reserve. [~~Private forest lands managed~~
2 Privately managed forests under existing federal,
3 state, or private sector financial and technical
4 assistance programs may be eligible for assistance
5 under this program if the landowner agrees to comply
6 with the requirements of the program or if forest
7 management activities are expanded or enhanced to meet
8 the requirements of this chapter;

9 (2) Prepare and submit a forest stewardship management
10 plan as set forth in section 195F-5; and

11 (3) Enter into [~~an~~] a program implementation agreement
12 with the board [~~to do the following~~], upon approval
13 of the forest stewardship management plan by the
14 board. Upon approval of the program implementation
15 agreement by the board, the applicant shall:

16 (A) Undertake and maintain the approved activities
17 under the management plan for not fewer than ten
18 years, unless the board approves modifications in
19 the plan;

20 (B) Complete all approved activities under the
21 management plan within the timetable agreed upon



1 by the board and the landowner consistent with
2 the intent of this chapter;

3 (C) Submit an annual progress report to be reviewed
4 by the board for each year in which the landowner
5 receives support under the program. This report
6 shall detail accomplishments, areas requiring
7 technical advice, and any proposed modifications
8 of the management plan; and

9 (D) Other conditions deemed necessary by the board to
10 implement the purposes of this chapter.

11 (d) The board shall review the annual progress report and
12 shall determine whether the landowner has met the objectives of
13 the management plan. To facilitate the review, the department
14 shall have the right to make inspections of the forest land
15 after prior landowner notification. The board may approve
16 alteration of the management plan to adapt to current
17 conditions. Amendments to the management plan shall be
18 available for public review.

19 (e) The board shall submit annually a detailed report to
20 the governor and legislature that shall:



- 1 (1) Identify management objectives that have been
2 completed on [~~private lands~~] privately managed forest
3 lands resulting from payments made pursuant to section
4 195F-4(a)(1) and provide an analysis of problems and
5 issues encountered in meeting or failing to meet
6 objectives as set forth in the management plans;
- 7 (2) Identify all reforestation, forest management,
8 education, and training objectives that have been
9 completed as a result of any expenditures made
10 pursuant to section 195F-4(a)(2);
- 11 (3) Describe the financial condition of the fund,
12 including receipts and expenditures from the previous
13 fiscal year; and
- 14 (4) Set forth plans and management objectives for the next
15 fiscal year."

16 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Forest Stewardship Program

Description:

Increases the reimbursement rate for participants of the forest stewardship program. Clarifies that long-term leaseholders are eligible to participate in the program. Requires forest stewardship program applicants to enter into a program implementation agreement with BLNR, upon approval of the forest stewardship management plan by BLNR. Defines "program implementation agreement". Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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