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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that green infrastructure  
2 is an approach to managing weather impacts that also delivers  
3 environmental, social, climate, and economic benefits. Green  
4 infrastructure planning aims to create a strategic network of  
5 natural and semi-natural areas that protect and maintain  
6 ecosystems in both urban and rural areas. Importantly, green  
7 infrastructure can also be the basis of a smart growth approach  
8 to development that cost effectively protects natural areas  
9 while creating more sustainable communities.

10       Green infrastructure functions as a complement to "grey"  
11 infrastructure, like pipelines and sewers. Green infrastructure  
12 reduces and treats stormwater at its source and can maintain and  
13 renew watersheds that host urban centers. Green infrastructure  
14 practices, such as green roofs, rain gardens, permeable  
15 pavement, and vegetation median strips, can provide solutions to  
16 stormwater runoff at the neighborhood level.



1       The creation of green infrastructure plans at the state  
2 level can generate strategies to enhance and preserve parks,  
3 agriculture, forest lands, and coastal areas. State green  
4 infrastructure plans can also identify where the State can save  
5 on water management costs, decrease pollution, lower flooding  
6 risks, and address climate change.

7       Currently, there is no defined system to determine the most  
8 effective use of green infrastructure in Hawaii. Without green  
9 infrastructure planning, the State risks losing valuable  
10 opportunities to cost effectively preserve the State's  
11 environment and increase quality of life for residents.

12       The legislature finds that a holistic and comprehensive  
13 green infrastructure study and plan will be of great benefit to  
14 the State and its environment. The legislature also finds that  
15 the state sustainability coordinator of the office of planning  
16 is well-positioned to undertake and coordinate activities  
17 relating to green infrastructure planning and development and to  
18 work with various stakeholders and the public to further the  
19 State's sustainability goals.

20       The purpose of this Act is to require and appropriate funds  
21 for the state sustainability coordinator to complete a holistic



1 and comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure  
2 opportunities in the State.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The state sustainability coordinator of  
4 the office of planning shall complete a holistic and  
5 comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure  
6 opportunities in the State.

7 (b) The green infrastructure study and plan shall:

8 (1) Identify green infrastructure opportunities in the  
9 State at the state, regional, and neighborhood levels,  
10 including any related costs and savings;

11 (2) Identify green infrastructure planning and development  
12 best practices at the state, regional, and  
13 neighborhood levels for potential application in the  
14 State, including financing and community engagement  
15 practices;

16 (3) Complete a plan that details how the State can move  
17 forward to cost effectively take advantage of  
18 identified opportunities, including any related costs  
19 and savings; and

20 (4) Identify any legal or regulatory changes that will be  
21 needed to execute the completed plan.



1 (c) The state sustainability coordinator of the office of  
2 planning shall submit a progress report and a final report of  
3 its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
4 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
5 to the convening of the regular session of 2020, and regular  
6 session of 2021, respectively.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$750,000 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
10 state sustainability coordinator of the office of planning to  
11 complete a holistic and comprehensive green infrastructure study  
12 and plan for the State.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
14 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of  
15 this Act.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



**Report Title:**

Green Infrastructure Study and Plan; Office of Planning;  
Sustainability Coordinator; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the state sustainability coordinator of the office of planning to complete a holistic and comprehensive study and plan for green infrastructure opportunities in the State.  
Appropriates funds to complete the green infrastructure study and plan. (SD1)

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