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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

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MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR HE'EIA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH  
RESERVE.

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

1       SECTION 1. The National Estuarine Research Reserve System  
2 is a network of twenty-eight protected areas along America's  
3 coasts. According to the *National Estuarine Research Reserve*  
4 *System Strategic Plan 2011-2016*, the System is founded on the  
5 principle that long-term protection of representative estuaries  
6 provides stable platforms for research and education and the  
7 application of management practices that will benefit the  
8 nation's estuaries and coasts.

9       The legislature finds that the State has coordinated with  
10 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to  
11 nominate He'eia estuary as a National Estuarine Research Reserve.  
12 The site, located on Oahu's windward shore, includes He'eia state  
13 park, He'eia fishpond, and the He'eia community development  
14 district, as well as marine waters with patch and fringing reefs  
15 and Moku o Lo'e (Coconut Island). In 2012, the office of  
16 planning was designated as the lead agency to coordinate the



1 selection for a Hawai'i site to be designated as a National  
2 Estuarine Research Reserve and nomination process for He'eia to  
3 be designated as a National Estuarine Research Reserve. In  
4 2014, He'eia was officially nominated as a National Estuarine  
5 Research Reserve to support NOAA's policy to encourage expansion  
6 of the program in unrepresented areas of the country.

7 The He'eia site was chosen as the preferred site after a  
8 statewide solicitation period from interested communities. The  
9 office of planning supported the designation process through the  
10 development of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve  
11 System management plan. On January 19, 2017, the He'eia site was  
12 officially designated as the twenty-ninth site in the National  
13 Estuarine Research Reserve System, which enables federal funding  
14 to support the implementation of the management plan.

15 The Hawaii institute of marine biology, which is part of  
16 the University of Hawaii at Manoa, is the lead agency for  
17 implementation of the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve  
18 System management plan. The University's partners will include  
19 the Hawaii community development authority, department of land  
20 and natural resources, and several community organizations. For  
21 He'eia reserve to succeed in its function within the National



1 Estuarine Research Reserve System, funding for initial staffing  
2 is essential. The initial staffing needs are four full-time  
3 equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions: reserve manager, education  
4 coordinator, research coordinator, and cultural resource  
5 coordinator. Although the University of Hawaii has agreed to  
6 fund these positions in the first year, further funding is  
7 required to sustain them and to keep He'eia reserve fully  
8 functioning. These positions must be established and sustained  
9 to develop and manage He'eia reserve and keep it fully  
10 functioning. The legislature notes that as funding or  
11 partnership opportunities become available, additional staff  
12 will be required within the first five years to meet management  
13 plan goals and objectives, and further notes that the federal  
14 government matches state appropriations on a seventy per cent  
15 (federal) to thirty per cent (state) basis.

16 The purpose of this Act is to support He'eia estuary in its  
17 designation as a National Estuarine Research Reserve by  
18 appropriating funds to maintain the initial staff necessary to  
19 develop and manage He'eia reserve and its programs.

20 SECTION 2. Contractors and other third parties who receive  
21 funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by



1 the department of land and natural resources, the attorney  
2 general, and the auditor. Upon request by such agencies, the  
3 contractor or third party shall be required to submit for review  
4 all files, records, documents, and accounting related to the use  
5 and expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Act, whether  
6 the funds were received via contract, grant, or other agreement.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
10 hiring of full-time equivalent ( FTE) permanent  
11 positions within the University of Hawaii to maintain the  
12 initial staff positions that are necessary to develop and manage  
13 He'eia reserve and its programs.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
15 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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

17 INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2018



# H.B. NO. 2613

**Report Title:**

He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve; Staff Hiring;  
University of Hawaii; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for fiscal year 2018-2019 to maintain the initial staff positions that are necessary to develop and manage the He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve and its programs.

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