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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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



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

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

19 SECTION 2. Contractors and other third parties who receive  
20 funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by  
21 the department of land and natural resources, the attorney



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

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

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

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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