JAN 19 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that human activities

2 have contributed to the fragility of local habitats, leading to

3 a current crisis in the survival of Hawaiian plants and animals

4 and impacting public and private land use. Hawaii's endangered

5 species law provides that the intended purpose of all habitat

6 conservation plans, safe harbor agreements, incidental take

7 licenses, and subsequent actions is to increase the population

8 of Hawaii's threatened and endangered species.

9 The legislature further finds that effective implementation

of Hawaii's endangered species law requires resources for

11 adequate staffing. Currently, the department of land and

12 natural resources division of forestry and wildlife has three

administrative positions to manage statewide projects, plus

14 additional staff supported by grants to produce standalone

15 habitat conservation plans. The legislature finds that funding

16 a state civil service position to track and monitor funds and

17 expenditures related to each habitat conservation plan project

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- 1 would further improve the implementation of chapter 195D, Hawaii
- 2 Revised Statutes, by allowing greater consistency in issuing
- 3 incidental take licenses, conducting follow-up monitoring for
- 4 development projects, and implementing and managing mitigation
- 5 and other projects that are extremely beneficial for the
- 6 recovery of Hawaii's threatened and endangered species.
- 7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
- 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
- 9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
- 10 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) state civil service position
- 11 to effectively track and monitor funds and expenditures related
- 12 to habitat conservation plans, conduct follow-up monitoring for
- 13 development projects, and implement and manage mitigation and
- 14 other projects that benefit the recovery of threatened and
- 15 endangered species.

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- 16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
- 17 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.
- 18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

INTRODUCED BY:

2018-0786 SB SMA.doc

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S.B. NO. 2451

Report Title:

Habitat Conservation Plans; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Staff Position; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for a state civil service position to effectively track and monitor funds and expenditures related to habitat conservation plans and perform other tasks to benefit the recovery of threatened and endangered species.

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