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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds, as declared in the World  
2 Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of 2016, that "[w]e  
3 must undertake profound transformations in how human societies  
4 live on Earth, with particular attention to making our patterns  
5 of production and consumption more sustainable. We must  
6 recognize that human health and wellbeing depend on healthy  
7 ecosystems. We must recognize that every form of life has value  
8 - regardless of its worth to humans." Hawaii has been a leader  
9 in conservation efforts for decades through its commitment to  
10 environmental and sustainability policies. In the 1970s, the  
11 State enacted the State Environmental Policy, chapter 344,  
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, as a mechanism to set environmental  
13 goals. While comprehensive, it lacked measurable indicators and  
14 enforcement means. Our understanding of the challenges facing  
15 our natural environment worldwide has changed remarkably since  
16 the 1970s. The laws enacted in Hawaii in recent decades have  
17 served as a starlight for other jurisdictions and set a global



1 example on how to adopt policies on sustainability. More  
2 recently, several approaches to sustainability have emerged in  
3 Hawaii, including the Aloha+ Challenge, the governor's  
4 Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative, and other initiatives inspired by  
5 the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage and Mālama Hawai'i.

6 In July of 2014, the State launched the Aloha+ Challenge, a  
7 statewide commitment to sustainability, with the leadership of  
8 the governor, four county mayors, office of Hawaiian affairs,  
9 legislature, and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners  
10 across the State. *The Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona 'Ae'ōia, A*  
11 *Culture of Sustainability*, builds on Hawaii's history of systems  
12 thinking, Hawaiian culture and values, and successful track  
13 record on sustainability to outline six ambitious goals to be  
14 achieved by 2030:

15 (1) Clean energy: Achieve seventy per cent clean energy,  
16 with forty per cent from renewables and thirty per  
17 cent from efficiency;

18 (2) Local food: At least double local food production for  
19 local consumption;

20 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of  
21 natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing



1 freshwater security, watershed protection, community-  
2 based marine management, invasive species control, and  
3 restoration of native species;

4 (4) Waste reduction: Reduce the solid waste stream prior  
5 to disposal by seventy per cent through source  
6 reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill  
7 diversion methods;

8 (5) Smart sustainable communities: Increase livability  
9 and resilience in the built environment through  
10 planning and implementation at the state and county  
11 levels; and

12 (6) Green workforce and education: Increase local green  
13 jobs and education to implement these goals.

14 To increase the efforts of the Aloha+ Challenge, the  
15 governor launched the Sustainable Hawai'i Initiative in 2016,  
16 which includes five goals:

17 (1) Double local food production by 2020;

18 (2) Implement Hawaii's interagency biosecurity plan by  
19 2027;

20 (3) Protect thirty per cent of the highest priority  
21 watersheds by 2030;



(4) Manage thirty per cent of nearshore ocean waters by 2030; and

(5) Achieve one hundred per cent renewable energy in electricity by 2045.

In May of 2014, Hōkūle'a began a three-year voyage across the world's oceans carrying the message of Mālama Honua - to care for the earth. Building on the legacy of the Polynesian wayfinders, the Hōkūle'a Worldwide Voyage inspired actions of conservation across the Hawaiian Islands and beyond, resulting in the connection of a lei of aloha around the globe.

At the global level, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement have been adopted to guide global efforts. The SDGs, otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, came into force in 2015, and are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The seventeen SDGs are interconnected and work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a



1 sustainable way, for future generations. They provide a clear  
2 framework for action to guide countries in accordance with their  
3 own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at  
4 large. They tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us to  
5 make a positive change for both people and planet.

6 Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how we  
7 manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality  
8 and better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering peace  
9 and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and help  
10 economies prosper. The SDGs are voluntary commitments to make  
11 the world a better and more prosperous place.

12 During September 2016, over ten thousand leaders from  
13 government, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and  
14 spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia gathered  
15 in Hawaii for a meeting of the International Union for  
16 Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Delegates  
17 to the Congress adopted the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i  
18 Commitments to achieve the transformation required to promote a  
19 "Culture of Conservation". The Hawai'i Commitments consist of  
20 seven identified challenges and proposed solutions, including:



- (1) Linking spirituality, religion, culture, and conservation;
- (2) Engaging and empowering youth;
- (3) The challenge of sustaining the global food supply and conserving nature;
- (4) The challenge of preserving the health of the world ocean;
- (5) The challenge of ending wildlife trafficking;
- (6) The challenge of engaging with the private sector; and
- (7) The challenge of climate change.

The Hawai'i Commitments build on the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs to allow different global voices to come together and find common ground in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and sustainability.

In order for Hawaii to continue to serve as a starlight for the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and to serve as global leader on issues of conservation and sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its full commitment to its own policies and goals as well as the goals set on the international stage at United Nations conferences and summits on sustainability.



1       Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to codify the State's  
2       commitment to conservation and sustainability by including goal  
3       five, gender equality, of the seventeen United Nations SDGs and  
4       indicators, with references to existing state sustainability  
5       programs, in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6       SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7       amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
8       and to read as follows:

9       "§226-       Sustainable development goals; gender equality.

10      In pursuance of the State's sustainability goals, and  
11      notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies shall,  
12      insofar as practicable, take action to assist the State in  
13      achieving the sustainable development goal of achieving gender  
14      equality and empowering all women and girls by 2030 by:

15      (1) Ending all forms of discrimination against all women  
16          and girls in Hawaii;

17      (2) Eliminating all forms of violence against all women  
18          and girls in the public and private spheres, including  
19          trafficking and sexual and other types of  
20          exploitation;



- 1        (3) Eliminating all harmful practices such as child,  
2        early, and forced marriage and female genital  
3        mutilation;
- 4        (4) Recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work  
5        through the provision of public services,  
6        infrastructure, and social protection policies and the  
7        promotion of shared responsibility within the  
8        household and the family;
- 9        (5) Ensuring women's full and effective participation and  
10       equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of  
11       decision-making in political, economic, and public  
12       life; and
- 13       (6) Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive  
14       health and reproductive rights."

15       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal 5; Gender Equality

**Description:**

Codifies Goal 5 of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. (SB2666 HD1)

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