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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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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 an example 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 Hawaii initiative, and other initiatives inspired by  
5 the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage and Mālama Hawaii.

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'oia, 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 the following six ambitious  
14 goals to be 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 Hawaii 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, the World Conservation Congress Hawai‘i Commitments of 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement have been adopted to guide global efforts. The sustainable development goals, otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and came into force in 2015, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The seventeen sustainable development goals are interconnected and work in the spirit of partnership and



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

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

15 During September 2016, over ten thousand leaders from  
16 government, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and  
17 spiritual traditions, the private sector, and academia gathered  
18 in Hawaii for a meeting of the International Union for  
19 Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress. Delegates  
20 to the Congress adopted the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i  
21 Commitments in order to achieve the transformation required to



1 promote a "Culture of Conservation". The World Conservation  
2 Congress Hawai'i Commitments consist of seven identified  
3 challenges and proposed solutions, including:

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

14 The World Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments build on  
15 the Paris Climate Agreement and the sustainable development  
16 goals to allow different global voices to come together and find  
17 common ground in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and  
18 sustainability.

19 In order for Hawaii to continue to serve as an example for  
20 the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and  
21 to serve as a global leader on issues of conservation and



1 sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its  
2 full commitment to its own policies and goals as well as the  
3 goals set on the international stage at United Nations  
4 conferences and summits on sustainability.

5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to codify the State's  
6 commitment to conservation and sustainability by including goal  
7 thirteen of the seventeen United Nations sustainable development  
8 goals and indicators, climate action, with references to  
9 existing state sustainability programs, if applicable, in the  
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§344- Sustainable development goals; climate action.  
15 In pursuance of the State's sustainability goals,  
16 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies, insofar  
17 as practicable, shall assist the State in achieving the  
18 sustainable development goal of taking urgent action to combat  
19 climate change and its impacts by 2030 by:

20 (1) Strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to  
21 climate-related hazards and natural disasters



1 statewide in line with the Paris Climate Agreement and  
2 the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of  
3 2016;

4 (2) Integrating climate change measures into state  
5 policies, strategies, and planning; and

6 (3) Improving education, awareness-raising, and human and  
7 institutional capacity on climate change mitigation,  
8 adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning,  
9 pursuant to the goals of the Aloha+ Challenge."

10 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 28, 2045.





**Report Title:**

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal 13; Climate Action

**Description:**

Codifies Goal 13 of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. (SB2674 HD1)

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