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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  
8 value - regardless of its worth to humans." Hawai'i has been a  
9 leader in conservation efforts for decades, through its  
10 commitment to environmental and sustainability policies. In the  
11 1970s, the State enacted the State Environmental Policy,  
12 chapter 344, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as a mechanism to set  
13 environmental goals. While comprehensive, it lacked measurable  
14 indicators and enforcement means. Our understanding of the  
15 challenges facing our natural environment worldwide have changed  
16 remarkably since the 1970s, and the laws enacted in Hawai'i in  
17 recent decades have served as a starlight for other



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

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

- 16 (1) Clean energy: Achieve seventy per cent clean energy,  
17 with forty per cent from renewables and thirty per  
18 cent from efficiency;
- 19 (2) Local food: At least double local food production for  
20 local consumption;



1 (3) Natural resource management: Reverse the trend of  
2 natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing  
3 freshwater security, watershed protection, community-  
4 based marine management, invasive species control, and  
5 restoration of native species;

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

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

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

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

19 (1) Double local food production by 2020;

20 (2) Implement the State's interagency biosecurity plan by  
21 2027;



- 1 (3) Protect thirty per cent of the highest priority  
2 watersheds by 2030;
- 3 (4) Manage thirty per cent of nearshore ocean waters by  
4 2030; and
- 5 (5) Achieve one hundred per cent renewable energy in  
6 electricity by 2045.

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

13 At the global level, the United Nations Sustainable  
14 Development Goals, the World Conservation Congress Hawai'i  
15 Commitments of 2016, and the Paris Climate Agreement have been  
16 adopted to guide global efforts. The Sustainable Development  
17 Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable  
18 Development, were born at the United Nations Conference on  
19 Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, came into  
20 force in 2015, and are a universal call to action to end  
21 poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy



1 peace and prosperity. The seventeen SDGs are interconnected and  
2 work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the  
3 right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for  
4 future generations. They provide a clear framework for action  
5 to guide countries in accordance with their own priorities and  
6 the environmental challenges of the world at large. They tackle  
7 the root causes of poverty and unite us to make a positive  
8 change for both people and planet.

9 Dealing with the threat of climate change impacts how we  
10 manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality  
11 and better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering peace  
12 and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and help  
13 economies prosper. The SDGs are voluntary commitments to make  
14 the world a better and more 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 Hawai'i 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 to achieve the transformation required to promote a



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

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

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

17 In order for Hawai'i to continue to serve as a starlight for  
18 the rest of the world in setting policies on sustainability and  
19 to serve as a global leader on issues of conservation and  
20 sustainability, it is essential that the State demonstrate its  
21 full commitment to its own policies and goals as well as the



1 goals set on the international stage at United Nations  
2 conferences and summits on sustainability.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to codify the State's  
4 commitment to conservation and sustainability by including goal  
5 fifteen, life on land, of the seventeen United Nations SDGs and  
6 indicators, with references to existing state sustainability  
7 programs, if applicable, in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

11 "§226- Sustainable development goals; life on land. In  
12 pursuance of the State's sustainability goals, and  
13 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all agencies shall,  
14 insofar as practicable, take action to assist the State in  
15 achieving the sustainable development goal of protecting,  
16 restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial  
17 ecosystems; sustainably managing forests; combating  
18 desertification; and halting and reversing land degradation and  
19 biodiversity loss by 2030, unless otherwise indicated in this  
20 section, by:



- 1        (1) Ensuring the conservation, restoration, and  
2        sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater  
3        ecosystems and their uses;
- 4        (2) Promoting the implementation of sustainable management  
5        of all types of forests, halting deforestation,  
6        restoring degraded forests, and substantially  
7        increasing afforestation and reforestation statewide;
- 8        (3) Combating desertification; restoring degraded land and  
9        soil, including land affected by desertification,  
10       drought, and floods; and striving to achieve a land  
11       degradation-neutral world;
- 12       (4) Ensuring the conservation of mountain ecosystems,  
13       including their biodiversity, in order to enhance  
14       their capacity to provide benefits that are essential  
15       for sustainable development;
- 16       (5) Promoting fair and equitable sharing of the benefits  
17       arising from the utilization of genetic resources and  
18       promoting appropriate access to such resources, as  
19       internationally agreed;
- 20       (6) Taking urgent and significant action to reduce the  
21       degradation of natural habitats, halting the loss of





biodiversity, and protecting and preventing the  
extinction of threatened species, pursuant to the  
World Conservation Congress Hawai'i Commitments of  
2016;

(7) Taking urgent action to end poaching and trafficking  
of protected species of flora and fauna and addressing  
the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products;

(8) Implementing the State's interagency biosecurity plan  
by 2027, pursuant to the goals of the Sustainable  
Hawai'i Initiative;

(9) Integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into  
state and local planning, development processes,  
poverty reduction strategies, and accounts; and

(10) Mobilizing significant resources from all sources and  
at all levels to finance sustainable forest management  
and provide adequate incentives to advance  
conservation and reforestation."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Sustainable Development Goals; Goal Fifteen; Life on Land

**Description:**

Codifies sustainable development goals based on the United Nations' Global Goal 15, Life on Land. (SB2676 HD1)

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