

JAN 20 2017

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION.

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

1       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  
10 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  
13 administrative positions to manage statewide projects, plus  
14 additional staff supported by grants to produce standalone  
15 habitat conservation plans. Increasing staff capacity statewide  
16 by fully funding a state civil service position to effectively  
17 track and monitor funds and expenditures related to each habitat



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1 conservation plan project would allow for greater consistency in  
2 issuing incidental take licenses, conducting follow-up  
3 monitoring for development projects, and implementing and  
4 managing of mitigation and other projects that are extremely  
5 beneficial for the recovery of Hawaii's threatened and  
6 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 2017-2018 and  
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
11 year 2018-2019 for one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) state  
12 civil service position to effectively track and monitor funds  
13 and expenditures related to habitat conservation plans, conduct  
14 follow-up monitoring for development projects, and implement and  
15 manage mitigation and other projects that benefit the recovery  
16 of threatened and endangered species.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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# S.B. NO. 690

**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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