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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE PLANNING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is a unique  
2 and beautiful state, a precious lei of islands amidst the  
3 Pacific Ocean and unique as the only Pacific island state. For  
4 many, it is the ideal place to live and has been second to none  
5 for providing a preferred quality of life. It is the  
6 government's responsibility to identify the goals of the State  
7 that are important for present and future generations, to  
8 improve and maintain the quality of life for individuals and  
9 communities and the quality of the visitor experience.  
10 Preserving Hawaii's values is the unifying theme of the Hawaii  
11 state plan, which is intended to preserve and protect the  
12 healthy social, economic, and physical environments that benefit  
13 the community as a whole.

14           The Hawaii state plan states as one of its goals, "A  
15 desired physical environment, characterized by beauty,  
16 cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that  
17 enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people". The



1 state plan objectives and policies for the physical environment  
2 include planning to protect:

- 3 (1) Land-based, shoreline, and marine resources;
- 4 (2) Scenic, natural beauty, and historic resources; and
- 5 (3) Land, air, and water quality.

6 The Hawaii state plan also sets priority guidelines for planning  
7 for population growth and land resources, including  
8 identification of critical environmental areas in Hawaii.

9 Critical environmental areas include scenic and recreational  
10 shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and  
11 cultural sites, and scenic resources.

12 The legislature further finds that the lei of green was  
13 first brought forth by the renowned national planner Lewis  
14 Mumford to benefit the Territory of Hawaii, as a plan to link  
15 Honolulu's green parks, open space, recreation areas, and  
16 greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline, interconnected  
17 with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and climate control.

18 The lei of green was further emphasized by the Hawaii chapter of  
19 the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1999 and  
20 incorporated as a guiding principle in the Kakaako makai master  
21 plan by the Hawaii community development authority in 2011. The



1 legislature finds that there is a need for coordination among  
 2 different agencies and levels of government in guiding the  
 3 future of the State to ensure the long-continued and intended  
 4 protection and preservation of the lei of green, consisting of  
 5 Honolulu's historic parks and green recreational open spaces as  
 6 an interconnected multi-use system.

7 The purpose of this Act is to include objectives and  
 8 policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei  
 9 of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act.

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

13 "§226-A Objectives and policies for the physical  
 14 environment--lei of green. (a) Planning for the State's  
 15 physical environment with regard to the lei of green shall be  
 16 directed toward achievement of the following objectives:

- 17 (1) The protection and preservation of green public parks  
 18 and recreational open spaces within the lei of green;
- 19 (2) The expansion of greenways and shoreline promenades  
 20 interconnecting the lei of green from the Ala Wai



1 recreational boat harbor and Kewalo Basin boat harbor  
2 public lands to Honolulu harbor;

3 (3) The restoration, protection, and preservation of the  
4 intrinsic elements of the lei of green; and

5 (4) The protection of the lei of green resources for the  
6 immediate future and to perpetuate the lei of green to  
7 benefit the public as an environmental legacy for  
8 present and future generations.

9 (b) For the purposes of this section:

10 "Greenways" means a system of corridors of land or water  
11 that connect and protect the natural, historic and cultural, and  
12 recreational resources within the surrounding landscape and  
13 communities.

14 "Lei of green" means the area of historic public parks and  
15 recreational open spaces spanning from Diamond Head to Aloha  
16 Tower, including Diamond Head state monument, Kapiolani regional  
17 park, Ala Wai Golf Course, Ala Wai Canal, Fort DeRussy beach  
18 park, Ala Moana regional park, Kewalo basin park, Kakaako  
19 waterfront park, Thomas square, and Irwin memorial park."



1 SECTION 3. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§226-B Lei of green. (a) The office shall implement the  
5 lei of green policy, in coordination with appropriate state and  
6 county departments. The office shall strive to:

7 (1) Ensure that the lei of green policy is a respected  
8 guide for the restoration, protection, and  
9 preservation of the anchor elements of the lei of  
10 green, including its historic parks and historic  
11 landscapes, recreational open spaces, and greenways  
12 extending from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower; and

13 (2) Work closely with the county and the public to  
14 implement the policy for state and county lands within  
15 the lei of green.

16 (b) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Greenways" shall have the same meaning as in section  
18 226-A.

19 "Historic landscape" means any park, recreational, or  
20 cultural green open space listed on or eligible for the Hawaii  
21 state register of historic places.



1        "Lei of green" shall have the same meaning as in section  
2        226-A."

3        SECTION 4. The office of planning shall submit a report of  
4        its findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
5        legislation, to the legislature and the governor no later than  
6        twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of  
7        2020, on the status of the lei of green policy. The report  
8        shall provide benchmarks as necessary to assist incremental  
9        compliance with fulfilling and completing the lei of green from  
10       Diamond Head to Aloha Tower.

11       SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section  
12       2 and 3 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
13       appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
14       the new sections in this Act.

15       SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

16       SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
17       2050.

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**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Plan; Lei of Green

**Description:**

Includes objectives and policies and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green in the Hawaii State Planning Act. Takes effect 12/31/2050. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

