
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that since western
2 contact, Hawaii has lost nearly half of its native forest cover
3 and the State's forests continue to be reduced by invasive
4 species and wildfires. In recent years, Hawaii's cities have
5 also experienced a dramatic decline in their urban tree cover,
6 with Honolulu seeing a five per cent decline of its urban tree
7 cover in less than a four-year period.

8 The legislature further finds that Act 15, Session Laws of
9 Hawaii 2018, among other things, sets a goal for the State to
10 achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. A tree planting program will
11 assist the State in reaching this goal. In 2016, urban trees in
12 Hawaii were estimated to sequester four hundred ten thousand
13 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually—equal to the
14 annual emissions of eighty-nine thousand cars. However, state
15 and county lands cannot accommodate all the necessary tree
16 plantings needed to achieve carbon neutrality. Community
17 partnerships are therefore essential to meet the goal of carbon



1 neutrality and improve the quality of life in Hawaii for present
2 and future generations.

3 The legislature also finds that department of land and
4 natural resources has implemented the Kaulunani urban and
5 community forestry program with support from the United States
6 Department of Agriculture Forest Service. The United States
7 Department of Agriculture grants approximately \$200,000 annually
8 for administering the state urban and community forestry
9 program. The program supports statewide community-based, cost-
10 share programs, including community-based tree planting
11 projects. However, program funds are not sufficient to support
12 all of the projects that seek funding, including a tree planting
13 program.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
15 establishment of a tree planting program, to be implemented by
16 the Kaulunani urban and community forestry program within the
17 department of land and natural resources' division of forestry
18 and wildlife, including the establishment of a community
19 partnership coordinator position.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
2 purposes of establishing a tree planting program, to be
3 implemented by the Kaulunani urban and community forestry
4 program within the department of land and natural resources'
5 division of forestry and wildlife, including the establishment
6 of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) community partnership
7 coordinator position; provided that no funds shall be made
8 available under this Act unless funds are matched or leveraged
9 by the Kaulunani community grant program.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
13 2033.



Report Title:

Climate Change; Carbon Neutrality; Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program; Tree Planting Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the establishment of a tree planting program, to be implemented by the Kaulunani urban and community forestry program within the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, including the establishment of a community partnership coordinator position. Effective 12/31/33. (SD1)

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