
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GREEN ENVIRONMENT.

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 lei of islands amidst the Pacific Ocean and the
3 only Pacific island state. For many it is the ideal place to
4 live and has been second to none for providing a preferred
5 quality of life. It is the government's responsibility to
6 identify the goals of the State that are important for present
7 and future generations. It is also the government's
8 responsibility to improve and maintain the quality of life for
9 individuals and communities and the quality and sustainability
10 of the islands for residents and visitors alike. Preserving
11 Hawaii's values is the unifying theme of the Hawaii state plan,
12 established pursuant to chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
13 which is intended to preserve and protect the healthy social,
14 economic, and physical environments that benefit the community
15 as a whole.

16 The Hawaii state plan states as one of its three goals: "A
17 desired physical environment, characterized by beauty,



1 cleanliness, quiet, stable natural systems, and uniqueness, that
2 enhances the mental and physical well-being of the people".

3 Pursuant to sections 226-11 through 226-13, Hawaii Revised
4 Statutes, the state plan objectives and policies for the
5 physical environment include planning to protect:

- 6 (1) Land-based, shoreline, and marine resources;
- 7 (2) Scenic assets, natural beauty, and historical
8 resources; and
- 9 (3) Land, air, and water quality.

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

13 Critical environmental areas include scenic and recreational
14 shoreline resources, open space and natural areas, historic and
15 cultural sites, and scenic resources.

16 The legislature further finds that the lei of green, a
17 long-standing policy to link green parks, open space, recreation
18 areas, and greenways mauka to makai along the shoreline,
19 interconnected with tree-lined pedestrian paths for shade and
20 climate control, was first brought forth by the renowned
21 national planner Lewis Mumford to benefit the Territory of



1 Hawaii. The lei of green was further emphasized by the Hawaii
2 chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1999
3 and incorporated as a guiding principle in the Kakaako makai
4 master plan by the Hawaii community development authority in
5 2011. The legislature finds that a successful example of the
6 lei of green policy is the lei of parks, green recreational open
7 spaces, and historic landscapes along Honolulu's shoreline from
8 Diamond Head to Aloha Tower.

9 The legislature further finds that there is a need for
10 coordination among different agencies and levels of government
11 in guiding the future of the State to ensure the long-continued
12 and intended protection and preservation of the lei of green,
13 consisting of public parks and green recreational open spaces as
14 an interconnected multi-use system.

15 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 16 (1) Include objectives, policies, and implementation
17 guidelines for the lei of green in the Hawaii State
18 Planning Act; and
- 19 (2) Appropriate funds to the office of planning to prepare
20 a status report on the lei of green, as required by
21 this Act.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
4 designated and to read:

5 "§226-A Objectives and policies for the physical
6 environment--lei of green. (a) Planning for the State's
7 physical environment with regard to the lei of green shall be
8 directed toward achieving the objectives of:

9 (1) Protection and preservation of green public parks and
10 recreational open spaces within the lei of green;

11 (2) Expansion of greenways and shoreline promenades
12 interconnecting green public recreational open spaces,
13 public parks, and historic landscapes within the lei
14 of green along the shoreline, mauka to makai;

15 (3) Restoration, protection, expansion, and preservation
16 of the intrinsic elements of the lei of green,
17 including large shade canopy trees to mitigate climate
18 change; and

19 (4) Protection of the lei of green resources for the
20 immediate future and perpetuation of the lei of green



1 to benefit the public as an environmental legacy for
2 present and future generations.

3 (b) For the purposes of this section:

4 "Greenways" means a system of corridors of land or water
5 that connect and protect the natural, historic, cultural, and
6 recreational resources within the surrounding landscape and
7 communities.

8 "Historic landscape" means any park, or recreational or
9 cultural green open space, that is listed or eligible to be
10 listed on the Hawaii register of historic places.

11 "Lei of green" means the area of public parks, historic
12 landscapes, green recreational open spaces, and connecting
13 greenways and shoreline promenades along the shoreline mauka to
14 makai."

15 2. By adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
16 designated and to read:

17 "§226-B Lei of green policy; implementation guidelines.

18 (a) The office shall implement the lei of green policy, in
19 coordination with appropriate state and county departments. The
20 office shall strive to:



- 1 (1) Ensure that the lei of green policy is a respected
2 guide for the restoration, protection, and
3 preservation of the anchor elements of the lei of
4 green, including public parks and historic landscapes,
5 green recreational open spaces, and connecting
6 greenways and shoreline promenades; and
7 (2) Work closely with the counties and the public to
8 implement the policy for state and county lands within
9 the lei of green.

10 (b) For the purposes of this section:

11 "Greenways" has the same meaning as in section 226-A.

12 "Historic landscape" has the same meaning as in section

13 226-A.

14 "Lei of green" has the same meaning as in section 226-A."

15 SECTION 3. The office of planning shall submit a report of
16 its findings and recommendations on the status of the lei of
17 green policy, including any proposed legislation, to the
18 legislature and the governor no later than twenty days prior to
19 the convening of the regular session of 2022. The report shall
20 provide benchmarks as necessary to facilitate incremental



1 compliance with and implementation of the lei of green policy in
2 each county.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
6 office of planning's costs of researching, compiling, and
7 submitting the status report on the lei of green policy required
8 pursuant to section 3 of this Act.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of
10 planning for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
12 2 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 July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Hawaii Green Environment; State Plan; Lei of Green Policy;
Appropriation

Description:

Adds objectives, policies, and implementation guidelines for planning for the lei of green to the Hawaii State Planning Act. Requires a report to the Legislature and appropriates funds for costs associated with researching, compiling, and submitting the report. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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