
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FORESTRY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that under the Hawaii
2 sustainability initiative, the State has committed to integrated
3 sustainability goals, including increasing the State's climate
4 resiliency, as well as supporting and increasing local food
5 production.

6 The legislature further finds that numerous sources, both
7 internationally and nationally, have recognized the importance
8 of healthy soil as a critical resource for supplying food
9 security, diverse habitats, water storage, and climate
10 resiliency. For example, the Food and Agriculture Organization
11 of the United Nations, nations around the world, and other
12 agencies including the United States Department of Agriculture,
13 celebrated 2015 as the International Year of Soils to highlight
14 the necessity of healthy soil for food security and ecosystem
15 resilience against climate change. Similarly, in recognition of
16 the importance of healthy soil to climate resiliency and food
17 security, many states around the country have launched



1 initiatives to incentivize building soil organic matter and
2 improving soil health.

3 The legislature also finds that trees have an important
4 function in improving soil health and building climate
5 resiliency for Hawaii's environment, including its agricultural
6 landscapes. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a
7 division of the United States Department of Agriculture, has
8 identified agroforestry as a unique land management approach
9 that intentionally blends agriculture and forestry to enhance
10 productivity, profitability, and environmental stewardship.

11 According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
12 the strategic planting of trees in agricultural landscapes may
13 increase crop yield, improve soil health, provide habitat for
14 wildlife, and provide a variety of other benefits.

15 The division of forestry and wildlife of the department of
16 land and natural resources manages four state tree nurseries
17 that aim to provide high-quality native, endangered, and
18 windbreak trees and plants for the public and department of land
19 and natural resources plantings and reforestation projects.

20 The legislature further finds that there is a need to build
21 and expand facilities at state tree nurseries.



1 The legislature further finds that various tree nurseries
2 across the State need new or expanded greenhouses, as well as
3 facilities to sanitize seedlings leaving the nurseries to
4 prevent spread of invasive diseases, including the Waimea-
5 Kamuela state tree nursery meant to service large-scale projects
6 statewide, the Maui, Kauai, and Oahu District Nurseries, and the
7 Kauai district mid-elevation rare plant nursery.

8 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of
9 general obligation bonds for the forest stewardship program to
10 build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries.

11 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
12 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
14 as may be necessary is appropriated for the 2021-2023 fiscal
15 biennium for the purpose of the forest stewardship program to
16 build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries to
17 increase the capacity to provide clean planting materials.

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

20 SECTION 3. The appropriation made for the capital
21 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at



1 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
2 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
3 unencumbered as of June 30, 2024, shall lapse as of that date.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Forestry; Tree Nursery; Forest Stewardship Program; Department of Land and Natural Resources; GO Bonds

Description:

Authorizes general obligation bonds for the forest stewardship program of the department of land and natural resources to build and expand facilities of the state tree nurseries. (SD1)

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