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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAINING IN NATIVE HAWAIIAN RIGHTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. In Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015 (Act  
2 169), the legislature found that pursuant to Hawai'i's  
3 constitution, statutes, and case law, the State recognizes a  
4 mandate to protect native Hawaiian traditional and customary  
5 rights. Accordingly, Act 169 required the office of Hawaiian  
6 affairs to establish, design, and administer a training course  
7 on Hawaiian rights, the sources of these rights, and how the  
8 infringement of these rights affects the Hawaiian people. In  
9 addition, Act 169 required new members of certain State  
10 councils, boards, and commissions to complete the training  
11 course within one year of their appointment.

12           Unfortunately, despite the regular provision of notice to  
13 board and commission administrators, a significant number of  
14 board and commission members subject to the mandatory training  
15 course continue to fail to comply with their training course  
16 completion responsibility. As a result, critical land use and  
17 resource management decision-making may continue to be less than



1 fully informed on native Hawaiian concepts, practices, and  
2 rights.

3       These issues, in turn, have led and continue to lead to  
4 substantial conflict, distrust in government decisions and  
5 processes, and even legal action against the State, and may  
6 further foreclose critical opportunities to ensure our islands'  
7 resiliency and self-sufficiency through culturally-informed land  
8 use and resource management.

9       Accordingly, the legislature intends to ensure a deeper  
10 understanding among board and commission members of the State's  
11 legal responsibilities to native Hawaiians, Hawai'i's political  
12 history, the public land trust, native Hawaiian traditional and  
13 customary rights, Hawai'i's water laws and the public trust  
14 doctrine, and laws relating to native Hawaiian burials. The  
15 legislature further intends to ensure greater recognition and  
16 incorporation of native Hawaiian knowledge, values, and rights  
17 in land use and resource management decision-making.

18       The purpose of this Act is to:

19       (1) Prohibit newly appointed or reappointed council,  
20               board, and commission members who fail to meet their  
21               training course completion requirement from serving on



1 a permitted interaction group or voting on matters  
2 before their respective councils, boards, or  
3 commissions;

4 (2) Require newly appointed or reappointed council, board,  
5 and commission members who fail to meet their training  
6 course completion requirement to be removed from their  
7 respective council, board, or commission, unless they  
8 complete the training requirement or are reconfirmed  
9 by the Senate prior to the completion of the regular  
10 legislative session that follows the deadline to  
11 complete their training requirement; and

12 (3) Require the office of Hawaiian affairs and the  
13 department of land and natural resources to compile an  
14 annual report of council, board, and commission  
15 members who have failed to complete their training  
16 course requirement, and to submit the report to the  
17 governor and legislature no later than twenty days  
18 prior to the convening of the regular legislative  
19 session.

20 SECTION 2. Section 10-42, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended to read as follows:



1 " ~~[+]~~ §10-42 ~~[+]~~ Training relating to native Hawaiian and  
2 Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, natural resources and  
3 access rights, and the public trust. (a) All council, board,  
4 and commission members identified in section 10-41(a) shall  
5 complete the training course administered by the office of  
6 Hawaiian affairs pursuant to this section within twelve months  
7 of the date of the member's initial appointment ~~[-]~~ or  
8 reappointment. All newly appointed or reappointed members who  
9 fail to complete the training course within the required time  
10 period shall be:

11 (1) Prohibited from serving on a permitted interaction  
12 group or voting on a matter before their respective  
13 council, board, or commission until the mandatory  
14 training course is completed; and

15 (2) Removed from their respective council, board, or  
16 commission at the end of the regular legislative  
17 session following their deadline to complete the  
18 training course; provided that members shall not be  
19 removed if they complete the mandatory training course  
20 or obtain the advice and consent of the senate to  
21 continue serving on their respective council, board,



1           or commission by the end of the regular legislative  
2           session following their deadline to complete the  
3           training course.

4           (b) Individual votes taken by council, board, and  
5           commission members who failed to complete the mandatory training  
6           course may be challenged and subject to being nullified and  
7           voided following a contested case proceeding.

8           (c) The office of Hawaiian affairs and department of land  
9           and natural resources shall prepare an annual report of all  
10           council, board, and commission members who have failed to meet  
11           the training requirement in this section as of September 21 of  
12           each year, which shall be made available for public inspection  
13           at the office of Hawaiian affairs and department of land and  
14           natural resources, and submitted to the governor and legislature  
15           no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
16           session of the legislature.

17           ~~(b)~~ (d) The office of Hawaiian affairs, at its own  
18           expense, shall establish, design, and administer a training  
19           course relating to native Hawaiian and Hawaiian traditional and  
20           customary rights, native Hawaiian and Hawaiian natural resource  
21           protection and access rights, and the public trust, including



1 the State's trust responsibility. The training course shall  
2 include:

- 3 (1) Historical information, explanations, and discussions  
4 of key state laws, state constitutional provisions,  
5 and court rulings that reaffirm and provide for the  
6 protection of native Hawaiian and Hawaiian rights; and  
7 (2) A discussion of the importance of public trust  
8 resources and various programs to native Hawaiian and  
9 Hawaiian rights.

10 [~~(e)~~] (e) The office of Hawaiian affairs, at its own  
11 expense, shall develop the methods and prepare any materials  
12 necessary to implement the training course, administer the  
13 training course, and notify each council, board, and commission  
14 identified in section 10-41(a) that attendance in a training  
15 course is mandatory.

16 [~~(f)~~] (f) The office of Hawaiian affairs shall offer the  
17 training course at least twice per year.

18 [~~(g)~~] (g) The governor shall provide to the office of  
19 Hawaiian affairs the names of persons required to take the  
20 training course pursuant to this part within thirty calendar  
21 days of their initial appointment by the governor."



1           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.  
3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Council; Boards; Commissions; Members; Training

**Description:**

Prohibits newly appointed or reappointed council, board, and commission members from serving if the member has not completed, within the requisite time, the required training course related to Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights, Native Hawaiian natural resource protection and access rights, and the public trust, including the State's fiduciary responsibility.  
(SD2)

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

