
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that hotter temperatures
2 induced by climate change affect a student's ability to play,
3 gather, and learn outside while attending school. To reduce the
4 effect of hotter temperatures on students at department of
5 education schools, the department can take a more proactive
6 approach to increase the tree canopy on school campuses. In
7 addition to lowering the temperature on campuses through shade,
8 transpiration, and reduction of the heat island effect, trees
9 will also absorb storm water, clean the air, beautify campuses,
10 and help reach county and state environmental goals.
11 Furthermore, the planting and caring for trees on campuses
12 provides a multitude of learning opportunities, including
13 learning the role trees play in the overall health of the
14 ecosystem, cultural uses of indigenous trees, tree propagation
15 and care, and commercial uses of trees.

16 The legislature further finds that, during the Regular
17 Session of 2021, the legislature adopted House Concurrent



1 Resolution No. 68, which requested that the department of
2 education create a landscape management plan with goals to
3 increase tree canopies on public school grounds, document
4 existing inventory and talent, and identify additional resources
5 required to implement and sustain the plan.

6 The department of education facilities development branch
7 has subcontracted a thorough professional inventory of campus
8 trees. The inventory includes digital maps and information on
9 each tree, including a risk assessment, note of structural
10 defects, entity assigned responsibility for maintenance, pruning
11 contracts, and contact for emergency help. At the end of 2021,
12 seventeen school inventories were completed and an additional
13 two or three will be added each month going forward. The
14 inventory will be used to identify schools with few trees and
15 allow landscape architects to identify good spots for new trees.

16 The legislature additionally finds that the department of
17 education can utilize the opportunity for managing the tree
18 inventory as an educational opportunity. There are thirty-four
19 existing agriculture and natural resource programs in schools
20 statewide that are of different sizes and educate different
21 grades. These agriculture and natural resource programs can



1 support educational activities and encourage propagation of
2 native or fruit trees that can be planted and shared with
3 department of education schools and communities.

4 The legislature also finds that the department of education
5 needs further personnel to manage the tree inventory. The
6 department of education has one full-time arborist who is
7 responsible for overseeing all trees on all campuses statewide.
8 An additional full-time arborist will increase the ability of
9 the department of education to manage the existing tree
10 inventory and add the right trees in the right places so that
11 the tree canopy will be expanded in a manner that is safe and
12 minimizes damage to infrastructure.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Establish the shade tree and native plants program in
15 the department of education; and
16 (2) Appropriate funds for the shade tree and native plants
17 program and for an arborist position to support the
18 program.

19 SECTION 2. (a) There is established in the department of
20 education a shade trees and native plants program that shall:



1 (1) Utilize existing agriculture and natural resource
2 programs in schools and establish further agriculture
3 and natural resource programs in other schools to
4 educate students and propagate native plants and fruit
5 trees, which shall be planted or shared amongst all
6 department schools;

7 (2) Support schools with infrastructure and supplies to
8 establish nurseries for native plant and fruit tree
9 seedlings;

10 (3) Encourage the propagation of native plants and fruit
11 trees appropriate to each school's climate;

12 (4) Oversee the variety of native plants and fruit trees
13 for school planting and ensure their supply; and

14 (5) Encourage the inclusion of students of all grades and
15 ages to participate in the care of native plants and
16 fruit trees.

17 (b) The farm to school coordinator shall supervise the
18 shade trees and native plants program.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000 or so much
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the



1 administration of the shade trees and native plants program
2 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
8 the department of education to establish and hire one full-time
9 equivalent (1.00 FTE) permanent arborist position.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
11 education for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

13

INTRODUCED BY: *Lisa Mertes*

JAN 24 2022



H.B. NO. 1994

Report Title:

DOE; Shade Trees and Native Plants Program; Arborist;
Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the shade trees and native plants program in the department of education to support educational activities and encourage propagation of native plants and fruit trees for planting in department schools. Appropriates funds for the program and to establish an arborist position.

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