

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT THE INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO CLEAN WATER AND AIR AND HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING CLIMATE, AND TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATURAL, CULTURAL, SCENIC, AND HEALTHFUL QUALITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an  
2 amendment to article I of the Constitution of the State of  
3 Hawaii to recognize and protect the inherent and inalienable  
4 right of all individuals to clean water and air and health  
5 ecosystems, including climate. The amendment would also  
6 recognize and protect the right of all to the preservation of  
7 the natural, cultural, scenic, and healthful qualities of the  
8 environment. The amendment will complement existing  
9 constitutional provisions and raise up protection of the human  
10 health, cultural, and natural values of the environment that are  
11 essential to support Hawaiian life.

12           SECTION 2. Article I of the Constitution of the State of  
13 Hawaii is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately  
14 designated and to read as follows:



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"ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

Section . All people have an inherent and inalienable  
right to clean water and air and health ecosystems, including  
climate, flora, fauna and soil, and to the preservation of the  
natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the  
environment. These rights belong to both present and future  
generations. The State and its subdivision shall protect and  
not infringe upon these rights."

SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall  
be as follows:

"Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended to  
recognize and protect the inherent and inalienable right of  
all people in both present and future generations, to clean  
water and air and healthy ecosystems, including climate, and  
to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and  
healthful qualities of the environment, and to ensure that  
the State and its political subdivision shall protect and  
not infringe upon these rights?"

SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon  
2 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of  
3 the State of Hawaii.

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INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 2962

**Report Title:**

Constitutional Amendment; Green Amendment; Environmental Protection

**Description:**

Proposes a constitutional amendment that recognizes and protects, for present and future generations, the inherent and inalienable right of all people to clean water and air and healthy ecosystems, including climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and healthful qualities of the environment. Provides that the State and its subdivisions shall protect and shall not infringe upon these rights.

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

