
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PORT INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that maintenance dredging
2 is critical to the maintenance of small boat harbors, channels,
3 ramps, and other port infrastructure in the State. However,
4 under the current system, the necessary funding and permitting
5 for maintenance dredging are not secured until the need for
6 dredging becomes critical. This disorganized process sometimes
7 exacerbates the poor conditions at small boat harbors, allowing
8 marine sediment and foreign debris to accumulate to shallow
9 depths that can damage the hulls of ships. These conditions can
10 also cause a shutdown of the affected sites, which are important
11 for recreation and subsistence fishing and use by the general
12 public.

13 The legislature further finds that federal agencies have
14 encouraged states to adopt programmatic schedules of maintenance
15 dredging as a way to expedite federal review and even draw down
16 available federal dollars. Creating a strategic plan for
17 maintenance dredging of small boat harbors, channels, ramps, and



1 other port infrastructure in the State will spread resources
2 based on actual need and allow ample time for permitting and
3 public input before port infrastructure reaches a critical need.

4 The purpose of this Act is to:

5 (1) Require the department of land and natural resources
6 to create a strategic plan for maintenance dredging,
7 including sand bypassing, dewatering or stockpiling
8 areas, and beach nourishment, of small boat harbors,
9 channels, ramps, and other important port
10 infrastructure in the State;

11 (2) Require the department of land and natural resources
12 to complete a minimum of two projects identified in
13 the strategic plan; and

14 (3) Appropriate funds.

15 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
16 resources shall create a strategic plan for maintenance
17 dredging, including sand bypassing, dewatering or stockpiling
18 areas, and beach nourishment, of small boat harbors, channels,
19 ramps, and other port infrastructure. The strategic plan shall
20 include:



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- 1 (1) A list of potential projects in locations where the
2 department has identified a need for maintenance
3 dredging;
4 (2) The detailed estimated costs of each project; and
5 (3) A detailed timeline of each project until completion
6 that prevents or minimizes closures or interruption of
7 services at each project site.

8 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
9 submit a report, including the strategic plan and any proposed
10 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
11 to the convening of the regular session of 2024.

12 (c) The department of land and natural resources shall
13 complete a minimum of two projects identified in the strategic
14 plan created under this Act.

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 to
18 create a strategic plan for maintenance dredging pursuant to
19 this Act.

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



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1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
4 maintenance dredging of harbor and port locations, including
5 sand bypassing, dewatering or stockpiling areas, and beach
6 nourishment, as identified by the strategic plan created under
7 this Act.

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

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

11

INTRODUCED BY:

Elle Cochran

JAN 25 2023



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Report Title:

DLNR; Maintenance Dredging; Port Infrastructure; Strategic Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to create a strategic plan for maintenance dredging of important port and harbor locations and report the plan to the legislature. Requires the department of land and natural resources to complete a minimum of two projects identified in the strategic plan. Appropriates funds.

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