
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that based on the
2 recommendations of the house of representatives environmental
3 remediation working group, wildfires that engulf urban areas
4 contain more toxic chemicals than wildfires that simply consume
5 wood and natural materials. Materials burned in urban fires can
6 include household appliances, commercial appliances, vehicles,
7 and construction materials, which can leave behind a variety of
8 chemicals, contaminants, and debris that can persist in the
9 ecosystem.

10 The legislature further finds that conducting nearshore
11 coastal water quality testing and contaminant testing is
12 necessary to monitor the short- and long-term risks of wildfires
13 to the ecosystem, community, and environment. Environmental
14 contamination due to runoff, debris, and other hazardous
15 materials is inevitable following an urban fire. In the case of
16 the Maui wildfires, various state departments and organizations
17 are conducting testing and monitoring of water and air samples



1 to determine any immediate risks. Long-term monitoring is
2 preferable to evaluate whether there are any long-term risks to
3 human health and the ecosystem.

4 The purpose of this Act is to allocate funding resources
5 for long-term monitoring of water quality, as well as support
6 for research efforts to better understand the environmental
7 concerns linked to urban fires.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
11 the department of land and natural resources for the following:

12 (1) The sum of \$ to support regular ongoing
13 chemical/physical coastal water quality testing and
14 storm sampling;

15 (2) The sum of \$ to support characterizing
16 thousands of organic compounds (e.g., polychlorinated
17 biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
18 (PAHs), contaminants of emerging concern (CECs),
19 persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and
20 perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)),
21 fish and invertebrate contaminants, and in-water and



1 sediment contaminants, and autosamplers to measure
2 carbonate chemistry, including instrumentation for
3 continuous measurement of flow, salinity, depth,
4 temperature, pH, oxygen, chlorophyll, and dissolved
5 organic fluorescence;

6 (3) The sum of \$ for one full-time equivalent
7 (1.0 FTE) aquatic biologist III to support long-term
8 water quality monitoring and pollution source
9 detection; and

10 (4) The sum of \$ for one full-time equivalent
11 (1.0 FTE) aquatic biologist IV to support long-term
12 water quality monitoring and pollution source
13 detection.

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

16 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
17 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
18 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
19 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
20 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
21 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the



H.B. NO. 1840

Report Title:

DLNR; Water Quality Monitoring; Pollution Detection;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support long-term water quality monitoring and pollution source detection.

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