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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's natural  
2 resources are the State's lifeblood, providing the essentials  
3 for the community to thrive and the foundation for Hawaii's  
4 economy. These resources include clean air and water, fertile  
5 soil, coral reefs, stable coastlines, biodiversity, forests,  
6 beaches, and more. Natural disasters, such as hurricanes,  
7 floods, and wildfires are becoming more frequent and severe due  
8 to climate change, which has shown to have devastating effects  
9 on natural resources. In 2021, Hawaii became the first state in  
10 the nation to declare a climate crisis. Investing in the  
11 protection of natural resources, such as wetlands and coral  
12 reefs, can enhance the resilience of communities by providing  
13 natural buffers against these disasters. This proactive  
14 approach can save lives and reduce the financial burden on  
15 disaster response and recovery efforts. Improved natural  
16 resource management is the single most important strategy to  
17 prevent wildfires.



1           The 2023 Maui wildfires have now amplified to every  
2 resident, and indeed the world, the value of protecting,  
3 managing, maintaining, and restoring Hawaii's natural resources.  
4 Investing in the management, protection, and restoration of  
5 natural resources can also improve biodiversity protection,  
6 enhance soil and water management, and promote conservation.  
7 The department of land and natural resources is responsible for  
8 the protection, management, and restoration of Hawaii's public  
9 lands with jurisdiction of over nearly 1,300,000 acres of state  
10 lands, beaches, and coastal waters as well as seven hundred  
11 fifty miles of coastline (the fourth longest in the country).  
12 This includes state parks; historical sites; forest and forest  
13 reserves; aquatic life and its sanctuaries; public fishing  
14 areas; boating, ocean recreation, and coastal programs; wildlife  
15 and its sanctuaries; game management areas; public hunting  
16 areas; and natural area reserves.

17           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate additional  
18 operational funds to the department of land and natural  
19 resources for the protection, management, and restoration of the  
20 State's natural resources.



1 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
4 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes  
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
11 ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
13 serve the public interest; and
- 14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to  
19 provide additional operational funding to the department of land  
20 and natural resources to protect, manage, and restore the  
21 State's natural resources.



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

3           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Climate Change; Natural Resources; Protection; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates additional operational funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to protect, manage, and restore Hawaii's natural resources. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

