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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that artificial  
2 intelligence technologies are rapidly transforming industries  
3 and societies worldwide by enabling computers and machines to  
4 simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving,  
5 decision making, creativity, and autonomy. Therefore,  
6 establishing an artificial intelligence institute in Hawaii  
7 will:

- 8           (1) Promote research and innovation in artificial  
9 intelligence tailored to Hawaii's unique cultural,  
10 economic, and environmental needs;
- 11           (2) Advance workforce development and education to prepare  
12 residents for the artificial intelligence-driven  
13 future;
- 14           (3) Foster public-private partnerships to leverage  
15 resources and drive economic growth;



1           (4) Ensure that artificial intelligence development aligns  
2           with ethical principles and benefits for all residents  
3           of Hawaii; and

4           (5) Provide access to advanced computing infrastructure,  
5           artificial intelligence and data science expertise,  
6           immersive visualization technologies, and  
7           collaborative workspaces to support research,  
8           education, and creative projects.

9           The legislature further finds that as the sole institution  
10          of public higher education in the State, the university of  
11          Hawaii has the unique capacity to draw upon its academic  
12          disciplines, research strengths, and professional programs to  
13          serve as the hub for Hawaii artificial intelligence development  
14          in areas such as renewable energy, climate resilience, space  
15          sciences and engineering, health, sustainable agriculture,  
16          additive manufacturing, creative media, and cultural  
17          preservation.

18          The legislature also finds that activities of the  
19          artificial intelligence institute could take place, in part, at  
20          the several campuses and academic and professional programs  
21          across the university of Hawaii system. In turn, faculty



1 associated with the artificial intelligence institute could  
2 actively contribute to its vision by participating in  
3 interdisciplinary research, community engagement, and student  
4 mentoring and securing grants that align with the institute's  
5 mission and the State's economic roadmap. Through this mutual  
6 commitment, the artificial intelligence institute could serve as  
7 a model of excellence for regional, place-based innovation,  
8 workforce development, knowledge creation, cultural enrichment,  
9 and social good to serve Hawaii and the nation.

10 Additionally, due to artificial intelligence's importance  
11 to the State, funding an institute dedicated to research,  
12 governance and ethics, development, and applications of  
13 artificial intelligence and related technologies is in the  
14 public interest and a matter of statewide concern.

15 The purpose of this Act is to establish and appropriate  
16 funds for an artificial intelligence institute within the  
17 university of Hawaii to develop, support, and advance artificial  
18 intelligence initiatives statewide.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new subpart to part IV to be appropriately  
21 designated and to read as follows:



1 " . ALOHA INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTE  
2 §304A- Aloha intelligence institute; artificial  
3 intelligence; established. (a) There is established the aloha  
4 intelligence institute under the office of the vice president  
5 for research and innovation at the university of Hawaii.

6 (b) The institute shall:  
7 (1) Facilitate interdisciplinary research and development  
8 in artificial intelligence with a focus on areas  
9 relevant to Hawaii, including but not limited to:

- 10 (A) Climate resilience and disaster management;
- 11 (B) Sustainable agriculture, food security, and
- 12 marine resource management;
- 13 (C) Health care advancements and equitable delivery
- 14 of patient care;
- 15 (D) Renewable energy optimization;
- 16 (E) Creative media and other emerging industries;
- 17 (F) Advanced manufacturing and rapid prototyping; and
- 18 (G) Cultural and linguistic preservation;

19 (2) Foster training and education programs, including but  
20 not limited to:



- 1 (A) Artificial intelligence-related undergraduate and  
2 graduate degree programs;
- 3 (B) Artificial intelligence-related training for  
4 university faculty and staff;
- 5 (C) Workforce development initiatives;
- 6 (D) Community outreach and K-12 educational programs;  
7 and
- 8 (E) Creation of student pathways in artificial  
9 intelligence-related fields that align with  
10 efforts from the department of education;
- 11 (3) Partner with public and private entities to promote  
12 innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation in  
13 artificial intelligence-related fields; and
- 14 (4) Develop ethical guidelines and policies for the use of  
15 artificial intelligence in Hawaii.
- 16 (c) The institute shall be led by a director, who shall  
17 convene an advisory board consisting of the following members:
- 18 (1) Representatives from across the university of Hawaii  
19 system and other academic institutions;
- 20 (2) Representatives from relevant state agencies;



1 (3) Global, national, and local leaders from technology,  
2 business, and nonprofit sectors; and

3 (4) Community leaders, including Native Hawaiian and  
4 cultural experts.

5 (d) Aside from general funding from the legislature, the  
6 institute may seek additional funding through federal research  
7 grants, partnerships with private sector organizations, and  
8 philanthropic contributions.

9 (e) The institute shall submit a biannual report to the  
10 legislature and the governor. The report shall include:

11 (1) A summary of activities and achievements;

12 (2) Financial statements and funding updates; and

13 (3) Recommendations for future initiatives and funding  
14 needs."

15 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 to  
18 establish faculty of practice and administrative professional  
19 technical positions within the aloha intelligence institute and  
20 to develop, support, and advance artificial intelligence



1 initiatives statewide pursuant to section 304A- , Hawaii  
2 Revised Statutes, as follows:

- 3 (1) \$1,500,000 for ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE)  
4 permanent positions; and  
5 (2) \$500,000 for seven full-time equivalent (7.0 FTE) non-  
6 recurring positions and start-up expenses.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
8 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to  
12 establish faculty of practice and administrative professional  
13 technical positions within the aloha intelligence institute and  
14 to develop, support, and advance artificial intelligence  
15 initiatives statewide pursuant to section 304A- , Hawaii  
16 Revised Statutes, as follows:

- 17 (1) \$1,500,000 for ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE)  
18 permanent positions; and  
19 (2) \$500,000 for non-recurring start-up expenses.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
21 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



# H.B. NO. 546

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. J. G.', written over a horizontal line.

JAN 17 2025



# H.B. NO. 546

**Report Title:**

Aloha Intelligence Institute; Artificial Intelligence;  
University of Hawaii; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds to establish the aloha intelligence institute within the university of Hawaii to develop, support, and advance artificial intelligence initiatives statewide.

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

