
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of
2 land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife
3 oversees nearly one million acres of public land across the
4 State, including forest areas that abut residential property.
5 According to the 2023 State of Hawaii hazard mitigation plan,
6 between January 2018 and December 2021, windstorm events alone
7 significantly contributed to downed trees, which caused power
8 outages, road closures, significant traffic delays, serious
9 injuries, and several hundred thousand dollars' worth of damage
10 to crops and property across the State. Furthermore, the hazard
11 mitigation plan asserts that natural habitats, such as forests,
12 are some of the most vulnerable to damage from natural weather
13 events.

14 The legislature further finds that state-owned forests
15 adjacent to residential areas must be maintained to protect the
16 health and safety of communities from the possibility of downed
17 trees during storms, wildfires, high winds, or other natural



1 events, because fallen trees and branches from inadequately
2 managed forest areas can cause severe damage to homes, vehicles,
3 and critical infrastructure and endangers the lives of residents
4 and first responders. Effective monitoring and management of
5 state forests abutting residential areas, including routine
6 assessments and removal of dangerous tress, are necessary
7 functions of the division of forestry and wildlife.

8 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds
9 to the department of land and natural resources' division of
10 forestry and wildlife for the assessment and removal of
11 hazardous trees on state lands.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
16 year 2026-2027 for the division of forestry and wildlife of the
17 department of land and natural resources to assess and remove
18 hazardous trees on state lands across Hawaii; provided that the
19 sum shall be allocated for the following islands:

20 (1) \$ for Kauai;

21 (2) \$ for Oahu;



1 (3) \$ for Maui; and

2 (4) \$ for Hawaii island.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Hazardous Trees; Assessment; Removal; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the assessment and removal of hazardous trees on state lands across Hawaii. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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