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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that coral reefs are  
2 extremely valuable to the people of Hawaii and provide benefits  
3 such as coastal protection from erosion due to rising sea levels  
4 and larger ocean swells as the ocean warms; sand production that  
5 replenishes beaches; and fisheries, recreation, tourism, and  
6 spiritual connection. The legislature further finds that many  
7 reefs around the island of Oahu are widely known to be among the  
8 most degraded in the State, due to historically poor land use  
9 practices that buried corals with silt run-off and smothered  
10 corals with seaweeds fertilized by leaching sewage and  
11 fertilizer run-off. The legislature also finds that warmer  
12 ocean temperatures are now causing more frequent and severe  
13 coral bleaching events that kill corals and are predicted to be  
14 annual events by about 2040. Ocean acidification and other  
15 pollutants also adversely affect corals.

16       The legislature additionally finds that one of the most  
17 effective ways to help corals withstand and recover from present



1 and future threats is to ensure the existence of many  
2 herbivorous fishes on Hawaii's reefs, especially parrotfishes  
3 (uhu), surgeonfishes (kala and others), and chubs (nenu).  
4 These fishes are known to crop seaweeds that would otherwise  
5 smother corals, providing space on the reefs for new corals to  
6 grow, especially after coral bleaching events. The population  
7 of herbivorous fishes around Oahu is by far the lowest in  
8 Hawaii.

9 The legislature finds that the board of land and natural  
10 resources adopted statewide herbivore fishing rules in December  
11 2023 to protect herbivorous fish populations in the State.  
12 However, enforcement of these rules, which is the responsibility  
13 of the division of conservation and resources enforcement of the  
14 department of land and natural resources, has been particularly  
15 difficult around Oahu because:

- 16 (1) Fishing intensity is much greater on Oahu than on the  
17 other islands;
- 18 (2) Division of conservation and resources enforcement  
19 officers have been diverted to law enforcement duties  
20 on land due to recent increases in violent crime; and



(3) Most poaching of herbivorous fish occurs at night,  
which poses an extreme challenge to the several  
division of conservation and resources enforcement  
officers available for marine night patrols,  
especially given the lack of needed equipment.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds  
for equipment for the Oahu branch of the division of  
conservation and resources enforcement of the department of land  
and natural resources.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                      or so  
much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for  
equipment for the Oahu branch of the division of conservation  
and resources enforcement of the department of land and natural  
resources, to be allocated as follows:

(1) \$                      for two maritime enforcement patrol  
vessels, complete with audible/visual emergency  
equipment;

(2) \$                      for two patrol watercrafts, complete with  
audible/visual emergency equipment;



1           (3)   \$                   for shipment costs for the items in  
2                   paragraphs (1) and (2);

3           (4)   \$                   for thirty-two police marked patrol  
4                   vehicles, complete with audible/visual emergency  
5                   equipment;

6           (5)   \$                   for two towing vehicles for patrol  
7                   vessels, complete with audible/visual emergency  
8                   equipment;

9           (6)   \$                   for extended warranties for the two  
10                  vehicles in paragraph (5);

11          (7)   \$                   for one floating drive-on dock;

12          (8)   \$                   for six personal flotation devices;

13          (9)   \$                   for six sets of SCUBA gear, including full  
14                  equipment and training and certifications;

15          (10)  \$                   for thirty-two portable radios;

16          (11)  \$                   for one base station/repeater;

17          (12)  \$                   for thirty-two night-vision devices;

18          (13)  \$                   for thirty-two drones;

19          (14)  \$                   for thirty-two remote pilot certificates  
20                  for the drones in paragraph (13);



1           (15)   \$                   per year for six mobile surveillance  
2                   trailers;  
3           (16)   \$                   for six quick-deploy license plate  
4                   recognition camera systems; and  
5           (17)   \$                   for installation costs for the items in  
6                   paragraph (16).

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

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



**Report Title:**

Equipment; Oahu Branch; Division of Conservation and Resources  
Enforcement; Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for equipment for the Oahu Branch of the  
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the  
Department of Land and Natural Resources. Effective 7/1/3000.  
(HD1)

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