
A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT THE INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO CLEAN WATER AND AIR, A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE, HEALTHY NATIVE ECOSYSTEMS, AND BEACHES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to propose an
2 amendment to article I of the Constitution of the State of
3 Hawaii to recognize and protect the inherent and inalienable
4 right of the people to clean water and air, a healthful
5 environment and climate, healthy native ecosystems, and beaches,
6 which shall not be infringed.

7 This proposed amendment reflects the rooted traditions and
8 collective cultural conscience of the State's people, and
9 exemplifies the fundamental Native Hawaiian notion of Aloha
10 Aina, which translates to "love of the land" and is central to
11 Native Hawaiian values and beliefs. The amendment will
12 complement existing constitutional provisions and reinforce
13 protections of human health, natural and cultural values, and
14 the environment, all of which are essential to the sustenance of



1 the State as well as the intrinsic beauty of its islands that
2 attract admiration from persons all over the world.

3 SECTION 2. Article I of the Constitution of the State of
4 Hawaii is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately
5 designated and to read as follows:

6 "ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

7 Section . The inherent and inalienable right of the
8 people, including present and future generations, to clean water
9 and air, a healthful environment and climate, healthy native
10 ecosystems and beaches shall be protected and shall not be
11 infringed."

12 SECTION 3. The question to be printed on the ballot shall
13 be as follows:

14 "Shall the Constitution of the State of Hawaii be amended
15 to ensure the inherent and inalienable right of the people,
16 including present and future generations, to clean water
17 and air, a healthful environment and climate, healthy
18 native ecosystems, and beaches shall be protected and shall
19 not be infringed?"

20 SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.



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1 SECTION 5. This amendment shall take effect upon
2 compliance with article XVII, section 3, of the Constitution of
3 the State of Hawaii.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mahina P. Paepae", written over a horizontal line.

JAN 17 2025



H.B. NO. 597

Report Title:

Constitutional Amendment; Environmental Protection

Description:

Proposes a constitutional amendment to ensure that the inherent and inalienable right of the people, including present and future generations, to clean water and air, a healthful environment and climate, healthy native ecosystems, and beaches shall be protected and shall not be infringed.

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