

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ARBORISTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that trees are essential
2 for improving soil health and building climate resiliency.
3 Trees absorb carbon dioxide and supply oxygen, lower air
4 temperatures, provide shade and shelter, stabilize soil, prevent
5 soil erosion, support the capture and conservation of the
6 State's water supply, help remediate pollutants, and cut down on
7 noise pollution by acting as sound barriers.

8 The legislature further finds that the standards and best
9 practices of the tree care industry not only reflect the
10 knowledge of specialists in the field and the latest in research
11 findings, but also raise the level of professionalism and public
12 confidence in the field of tree care. Certified arborists, or
13 professional individuals who are equipped to plant, prune,
14 transplant, fertilize, monitor and treat for insects and
15 diseases, and remove trees and other woody plants, have an
16 obligation to perform work that meets these industry standards
17 and best practices. The legislature notes that the State has a



1 duty to manage and administer its public lands, including the
2 soil conservation function and all activities on and within the
3 forests, forest reserves, and state parks, and to promote the
4 conservation, development, and utilization of forests, including
5 forest reserves.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
7 State to ensure that all certified arborists in its employ or
8 under contract adhere to best management practices.

9 SECTION 2. The State and its departments, offices,
10 agencies, and political subdivisions shall require and enforce
11 all certified arborists in its employ, including contractors, to
12 adhere to best management practices in tree management and
13 arboriculture-related care.

14 For the purposes of this section, "best management
15 practices" means the American National Standards Institute A300
16 Tree Care standards.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18
INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 546

Report Title:

State Arborists; Contractors; Best Management Practices

Description:

Requires the State to ensure and enforce that all certified arborists in its employ, including contractors, adhere to best management practices.

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