

JAN 17 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's natural  
2 resources are among the State's most precious assets. These  
3 resources are vital to the strength of Hawaii's environment,  
4 economy, and cultural heritage. Effective conservation  
5 enforcement is critical to safeguard these resources from  
6 unlawful exploitation and degradation.

7       The legislature further finds that the department of land  
8 and natural resources' DLNRTip application provides an important  
9 mechanism for citizens to report natural resource violations  
10 directly to the department of land and natural resources.  
11 However, the legislature also finds that the application has  
12 faced challenges due to inconsistent monitoring, which has led  
13 to delayed or no responses, the loss of critical evidence, and a  
14 decline in public trust. These shortcomings have hindered the  
15 application's ability to function as an effective enforcement  
16 tool.



1       The legislature recognizes the increasing demand for  
2   citizen involvement in conservation enforcement. Given the  
3   extensive scope of natural resource protection and the  
4   limitations of available enforcement personnel, citizen  
5   reporting is essential for bridging enforcement gaps.

6       To address these issues, this Act codifies the DLNRTip  
7   application into the Hawaii Revised Statutes and provides  
8   critical resources to increase the application's effectiveness.  
9   This change will help to ensure that the department of land and  
10   natural resources properly monitors the application and responds  
11   to reports in a timely fashion. The resources provided by this  
12   Act will also help to enhance the application's capabilities,  
13   establish dedicated staffing, and mandate comprehensive  
14   reporting to the legislature on the application's use and  
15   effectiveness.

16       The legislature believes that this Act will restore public  
17   confidence in the DLNRTip application and maximize the  
18   application's potential as a tool to protect Hawaii's natural  
19   resources.

20       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- (1) Establish the DLNRTip application as the official electronic platform for persons to report natural resource violations to the division of conservation and resources enforcement;
- (2) Establish statutory requirements regarding the design and maintenance of the DLNRTip application;
- (3) Require the department of land and natural resources to ensure that all information submitted through the DLNRTip application is continuously monitored to facilitate timely enforcement responses;
- (4) Require annual reports to the legislature on the use and effectiveness of the DLNRTip application; and
- (5) Appropriate moneys to implement and maintain the DLNRTip application and to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position to support the operation of the DLNRTip application.

SECTION 2. Chapter 199, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:



**"PART . DLNRTIP APPLICATION**

**§199-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

"Department" means the department of land and natural resources.

"Division" means the division of conservation and resources enforcement.

"DLNRTip application" means the mobile application developed by or for the department of land and natural resources pursuant to section 199-B.

"Natural resource violations" includes:

- (1) The poaching or harassment of protected wildlife species;
- (2) Pollution; and
- (3) Any other activity prohibited by law or rule that impacts the State's land, water, flora, fauna, or other natural resources.

"Report" means text, photographs, videos, or other evidence submitted to the department through the DLNRTip application.

**§199-B DLNRTip application; natural resource violation reports; designation as official platform.** (a) The DLNRTip application is established as the official electronic platform



1 for persons to report natural resource violations to the  
2 division.

3 (b) The department shall design and maintain the DLNRTip  
4 application to allow persons to submit text, photographs,  
5 videos, and other evidence to the division for the purpose of  
6 providing timely and actionable information regarding potential  
7 natural resource violations.

8 (c) The department shall design the DLNRTip application to  
9 allow a person to report information to the division  
10 anonymously.

11 **§199-C DLNRTip application; management and oversight. (a)**

12 The division shall manage and oversee the operation of the  
13 DLNRTip application.

14 (b) The division shall ensure that information provided  
15 through the DLNRTip application is continuously monitored by  
16 qualified personnel to facilitate timely response by the  
17 division.

18 (c) The department shall adopt policies and procedures to  
19 address the:



(1) Processing of text, photographs, videos, and other evidence submitted through the DLNRTip application; and

(2) Use of information submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) to initiate timely enforcement actions.

**§199-D DLNRTip application; annual reports.** (a) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, the department shall submit a report to the legislature detailing the use and effectiveness of the DLNRTip application.

(b) The report shall include:

(1) The total number of reports received through the DLNRTip application during the preceding year;

(2) The number of reports that resulted in enforcement actions;

(3) The average response time between the submission of a report and the resulting enforcement action; and

(4) Any other findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation."

SECTION 3. Chapter 199, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by designating sections 199-1 to 199-9 as part I, entitled "General Provisions".



1       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$150,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
5 2026-2027 for:

6       (1) The implementation and maintenance of the DLNRTip  
7 application; and

8       (2) The establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0  
9 FTE) position within the department of land and  
10 natural resources to:

11       (A) Support the operation of the DLNRTip application;

12       (B) Monitor incoming reports submitted using the  
13 DLNRTip application;

14       (C) Coordinate with enforcement personnel to ensure  
15 appropriate and timely responses to reports  
16 submitted using the DLNRTip application; and

17       (D) Maintain records of all reports received using  
18 the DLNRTip application and any associated  
19 response actions made in response to those  
20 reports.



# S.B. NO. 756

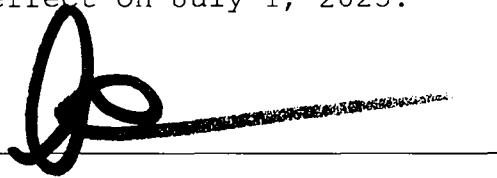
1       The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
2 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

3       SECTION 5. If any provision of this Act, or the  
4 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
5 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
6 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
7 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
8 of this Act are severable.

9       SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section  
10 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
11 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
12 the new sections in this Act.

13       SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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

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# S.B. NO. 756

**Report Title:**

DLNR; DLNRTip; DOCARE; Mobile Application; Conservation Enforcement; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes the DLNRTip application as the official electronic platform for persons to report natural resource violations to the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement. Creates statutory requirements regarding the design and maintenance of the DLNRTip application. Require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to ensure that all information submitted through the DLNRTip application is continuously monitored to facilitate timely enforcement responses. Requires annual reports. Authorizes 1.0 full-time equivalent position. Appropriates moneys.

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