

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TREES.

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. All professional
13 individuals who plant, prune, transplant, fertilize, monitor and
14 treat for insects and diseases, and remove trees and other woody
15 plants, have an obligation to perform work that meets these
16 industry standards and best practices. The legislature notes



1 that the State has a duty to care for all trees on public lands,
2 including forests and urban lands.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require any
4 State department, office, agency, or political subdivision that
5 manages trees to ensure that all arborists or other
6 professionals in its employ or under contract who manage trees
7 or lands that will impact public trees to adhere to best
8 management practices.

9 SECTION 2. Any State department, office, agency, or
10 political subdivision that manages trees shall require and
11 enforce all arborists and other professionals managing trees or
12 lands that will impact public trees in its employ, including
13 contractors, to adhere to best management practices in tree
14 management and arboriculture-related care.

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



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

Mike Gabbard



S.B. NO. 2336

Report Title:

Trees; Public Lands; Arborists; Professionals; Contractors; Best Management Practices

Description:

Requires the State or political subdivision to ensure and enforce that all arborists and other professionals managing trees or lands that will impact public trees in its employ, including contractors, adhere to best management practices.

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