

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE I OF THE HAWAII STATE
CONSTITUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT THE INHERENT AND
INALIENABLE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO CLEAN WATER AND AIR, A
HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE AND 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 Hawaii State Constitution to
3 establish the constitutional right of the people, including
4 present and future generations, to clean water and air, a
5 healthful environment and climate, healthy native ecosystems,
6 and beaches, that shall be protected and 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 people all over the world.

3 SECTION 2. Article 1 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 rights of the
8 people, including present and future generations, to clean water
9 and air, a healthful environment and climate and 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 Hawaii State Constitution be amended to ensure
15 the inherent and inalienable right of the people, including
16 present and future generations, to clean water and air, a
17 healthful environment and climate and healthy native
18 ecosystems and beaches, shall be protected and shall not be
19 infringed?"

20 SECTION 4. New constitutional material is underscored.



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.

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INTRODUCED BY: Mike Gabbard



S.B. NO. 2478

Report Title:

Constitutional Amendment; Green Amendment; Environmental Protection

Description:

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

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