

JAN 22 2026

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## 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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