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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RECOGNITION OF A HAWAIIAN SENSE OF PLACE.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Hawaiian Sense  
2 of Place Recognition Act".

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
5 to read as follows:

6 "PART . HAWAIIAN SENSE OF PLACE RECOGNITION

7 §226- Definitions. As used in this part, "Hawaiian  
8 sense of place" means the cultural, spiritual, environmental,  
9 and social relationships that Native Hawaiians and residents of  
10 Hawaii maintain with land, water, and natural and built  
11 environments. This concept includes but is not limited to the  
12 following elements:

13 (1) Connection to 'aina. Recognition of land as a living  
14 entity that sustains and nurtures the community,  
15 embodying ancestral knowledge, history, and genealogy;

16 (2) Cultural practices. Integration and perpetuation of  
17 traditional practices, including hula, oli (chant),



- 1 festivals, and other cultural expressions that
- 2 reinforce relationships between people and place;
- 3 (3) Spiritual significance. Acknowledgment of sacred
- 4 sites, traditional cultural properties, and places of
- 5 historical and traditional cultural importance,
- 6 contributing to individual and community identity;
- 7 (4) Community and family relationships. Recognition of
- 8 the role of 'ohana, community networks, and
- 9 intergenerational ties in shaping and sustaining
- 10 place-based identity; and
- 11 (5) Environmental stewardship. Commitment to
- 12 sustainability, biodiversity protection, and
- 13 traditional Hawaiian environmental practices that
- 14 promote long-term ecological balance.

15 **§226- Promotion and education.** The office shall

16 develop and implement educational and outreach programs to  
17 promote understanding and appreciation of the Hawaiian sense of  
18 place among residents, visitors, and public employees. These  
19 programs shall include but not be limited to:

- 20 (1) The cultural significance of 'aina and place-based
- 21 identity;



- 1 (2) Traditional Hawaiian environmental and land
- 2 stewardship practices; and
- 3 (3) The historical, cultural, and spiritual narratives
- 4 associated with specific places throughout the State.

5 **§226- Land management, planning, and state**

6 **construction.** (a) In the planning, management, and development  
7 of land, state agencies shall incorporate the principles of the  
8 Hawaiian sense of place.

9 (b) All new construction, redevelopment, or major capital  
10 improvement projects on state-owned lands shall be designed and  
11 developed in alignment with the Hawaiian sense of place,  
12 including the consideration of:

- 13 (1) Architectural and landscape design that reflects
- 14 Hawaiian values, cultural context, and environmental
- 15 conditions;
- 16 (2) Integration of culturally and historically significant
- 17 sites and features;
- 18 (3) Sustainable design practices consistent with
- 19 traditional Hawaiian environmental stewardship; and



1           (4) Meaningful engagement with Native Hawaiian  
2           practitioners, cultural experts, and affected  
3           communities during planning and design phases.

4           (c) State agencies shall ensure that community input and  
5           cultural consultation are meaningfully incorporated to uphold  
6           traditions and practices reflective of the Hawaiian sense of  
7           place."

8           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

OPSD; Hawaii State Planning Act; Hawaiian Sense of Place  
Recognition Act

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaiian Sense of Place Recognition Act.  
Requires the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development to  
develop educational and outreach programs to promote  
understanding of the Hawaiian sense of place among residents,  
visitors, and public employees. Requires state agencies to  
incorporate Hawaiian sense of place principles into land  
planning, management, and state construction projects.  
Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

