

ACT 26

S.B. NO. 3-S

A Bill for an Act Relating to Environmental Education.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's energy resources and physical environment must be managed and protected in a manner that ensures the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State and preserves our limited natural resources for future generations. The legislature further finds that environmental protection efforts suffer from a lack of coordination and diffusion of authority among various state agencies. The legislature further finds that efforts to undertake comprehensive strategic planning to identify overall goals and objectives of environmental management have been begun by the department of health for its programs, and that they can use their experience to assist in coordinating goal-setting among all state environmental agencies. The legislature further finds that the most effective method for environmental management is through the prevention of pollution. Effective pollution prevention requires environmental education and awareness programs, and training to develop environmentally-literate citizens who will be prepared to solve existing environmental problems, prevent new problems, and maintain a sustainable environment for future generations.

The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of health to work with the larger Hawaii community to establish goals, objectives, and priorities for the management and protection of Hawaii's environment as we approach the next century.

SECTION 2. (a) There is established the environmental advisory task force in the department of health to carry out the purposes of this Act. This task force shall be composed of representatives of interested organizations and community groups from all over the State, which shall:

- (1) Advise and comment on the procedures used by the department to foster public participation in its efforts to adopt goals and objectives for environmental protection;
- (2) Advise and comment on the department's efforts to promote grass-roots participation in environmental issues of concern in Hawaii;
- (3) Direct the department's efforts to promote environmental education programs and initiatives; and
- (4) Serve as a forum for public participation and comment on the environmental goals and objectives adopted by the department.

The task force shall develop and adopt an internal timetable to accomplish these tasks.

(b) The task force shall include, but not be limited to representatives from government agencies involved in environmental regulation and enforcement, government agencies involved in environmental education, the University of Hawaii, the armed forces, native Hawaiian organizations, environmental organizations, businesses that are regulated with regard to environmental matters by the department, the recycling industry, the visitor industry, the development industry, and any other associations interested in the environment.

(c) Nominations shall be submitted by the agencies set forth in subsection (b) to the director of the department of health within thirty days following the effective date of this Act. Appointments by the director of health shall be made within forty-five days following the effective date of this Act. The members shall elect a chairperson. Members shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties. The task force shall terminate on January 31, 1997.

SECTION 3. The environmental advisory task force shall provide a status report to the legislature by August 30, 1995. An interim report, which shall include a summary of the department of health's goals and objectives, shall be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1996. The task force shall submit its final report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1997.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$15,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1995-1996, for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. The department of health may receive monetary donations and gifts for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 6. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 7. The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources may develop, using existing personnel within the department of land and natural resources, a citizen-based extension service. Among the duties the chairperson may consider for the extension service would be volunteer coordination, environmental education, management of conservation or natural area reserve lands, participation in data collection and analysis, trail interpretation, assistance to the enforcement division, permit review and issuance, and water quality management with the department of health. The chairperson may receive monetary donations, gifts, and grants from sources other than the legislature and the federal government for this purpose, and shall report to the legislature, no less than twenty days prior to the

convening of the regular session of 1996, on any financial support that may be required to implement this section.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval and shall be repealed on June 30, 1997.

(Approved June 29, 1995.)