

Bill Limitations and Disclaimers

Our current bill draft reflects all readily available information and the extent of our capacities, and as such, the current version has a couple limitations and comes with several disclaimers. Below we outline the key limitations and disclaimers surrounding our bill proposal.

Limitations

The main limitations of our bill proposal are as follows:

1. Effective fertilizer management would be much more place-specific, based on the exact environmental dynamics of smaller regions. This is especially true for the Hawaiian Islands where each island has a multitude of environmental dynamics, particularly due to precipitation variations. Therefore, a more complete bill would incorporate a region-specific climate zone map to better determine the best fertilizer application rates in a place-specific manner. However, such a map does not exist yet.
2. While it is highly possible that the groundwater in Hawaii is being contaminated by fertilizer runoff, which should be traceable through analysis of the nitrate composition in the groundwater supply, such studies have not been conducted in Hawaii. This is a tremendous oversight about an issue that could potentially be of public health concern.
3. For our bill to be effective and feasible, it should include conclusive metrics to measure and evaluate environmental and socioeconomic factors before and after the implementation of the law to assess its effectiveness. One way this could be done is through measuring downstream nitrogen sourcing and compare the amounts attributed to fertilizers before and after the implementation. The numerous ways that the effectiveness of this bill could be measured have yet to be fully identified and integrated into the bill draft itself.

Disclaimers

The main disclaimers to our bill proposal are as follows:

1. For our bill proposal to be truly full, it would specify the repercussions for violating the proposed regulations. However, this is outside of our expertise, and as such we did not feel comfortable drafting this section of the bill. Additionally, it remains unidentified who would implement and enforce this bill upon its passing.
2. We were unable to discern where exactly in the legislation our proposed bill should be amended into. Although this is not crucial to the writing of the bill itself, this is a key component in the process of actually proposing the bill.
3. It still remains unclear the level of plagiarism that is allowed when writing legislation that has already passed elsewhere. Much of the confusion arises because creativity in language is, generally, not suggested when writing legislation since the wording must be hyper specific, and changing the language unnecessarily could change the meaning of the bill itself. Therefore, for the less bill-specific sections, we were inclined to adopt the language from other bills, but it is unclear the degree to which this is allowed.
4. Because our primary work was in crafting this bill itself, we were unable to craft any companion bills to go along with this. Future work should identify and introduce companion bills that would be introduced to the Senate and House chambers with this bill.
5. It remains unknown what the resource requirements tied to this bill are, how the bill will authorize them, and what the regulatory benefits and burdens of this bill would be and how we could measure them. Future work should research into these topics and elaborate upon them in the bill itself.

6. Our bill currently does not address who the primary benefiting and adversely impacted parties are should our proposed bill become law. This should be further developed and integrated into the first section of our bill proposal.
7. This current bill proposal does not address whether our proposed bill would, in any way, impede interstate commerce, and if so to what degree. Future work should conduct an analysis on this topic in order to better defend this bill.
8. As the bill is being developed, the authors need to identify potential committee referrals, such as AEW and WTL from Senate or EEP and HHW from the House.