

**S. 4462/H.R. 8640**

**National Interagency Seed and Restoration Center Establishment Act**

*Senator Mazie K. Hirono (D-HI) and Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL-05)*

Section-By-Section

Section 1. Short Title

Section 2. Definitions

Section 3.

- a) Establishment—Establishes the National Interagency Seed and Restoration Center (“Center”) and governing body to provide leadership and oversight.
- b) Interagency Coordination—Identifies that the DOI shall coordinate with the Federal Interagency Partners (Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation, and Department of Defense), the Plant Conservation Alliance, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations.

Identifies the purposes of the Center as being:

- To research: development and use of native plants, restoration of native plant communities, and propagate/store native plants;
- To provide native plant materials to land managers;
- To create resilient native plant communities;
- Enhance interagency coordination; and
- Coordinate shared use/enhancement of infrastructure for native plant material development

Lists the foci of coordination as being for native plant material collection and storage, native plant research/development/production, providing regionally appropriate native plant materials, facilitating seed procurement, coordinating seed testing and certification, revegetation and restoration of landscapes, enhancing communication/education/training, IT and geospatial coordination, native plant community restoration for indigenous purposes, and identifying budgetary needs.

Lists a number of existing networks that shall be leveraged by the DOI Secretary.

- c) Research—Lays out the following areas of emphasis for intramural and extramural botanical science research:
- Ways to restore ecosystems with native plants
  - Methods to develop native plant materials and seed transfer guidelines
  - Restoration strategies for using native species to reduce wildfire risk or following disaster
  - Methods to respond to environmental change
  - Ways to restore habitat and recover threatened and endangered species
  - Barriers to increasing native plant material availability
  - Restoration of native plants important to indigenous communities
  - Storage of native plant materials
  - Monitoring success

Notes that the Secretary may award competitive grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to meet research objectives.

- d) Use of Existing Seed Infrastructure—Notes that the Center shall coordinate use of existing DOI and USDA seed infrastructure.
- e) Ecoregional Hubs—Directs the Secretary to establish ecoregional hubs based on existing BLM Ecoregional Native Plant Programs and available to every state and territory where each include an ecoregional native plant coordinator, indigenous plant material specialists, seed collection teams, storage warehouses, plant production centers, and other subject matter experts to support the ecoregional hub.

States that the purpose of the ecoregional hubs is to assess native plant material needs of each ecoregion, to coordinate/facilitate the use of appropriative native plant materials in projects for that ecoregion, and allows for the hiring of staff needed for the ecoregional hubs.

- f) Other Partnerships—Lists a number of stakeholders with which the center shall coordinate to address local revegetation, rehabilitation, and restoration needs.
- g) Statement of Policy—States that the policy of DOI and Federal Interagency Partners shall be to preferentially use native plants for revegetation, rehabilitation, and restoration of landscapes.

- h) Additional Activities—Lists a number of additional activities the Center may carry out including identification and protection of rare plants on federal land, understanding human threats to native plant communities on federal land, and supporting a number of public-private efforts to support native species conservation, to catalogue and store plant materials, and research seed transfer guidelines, among others.
- i) Requires 2 reports. One within 1 year of enactment that identifies ecoregional needs and recommendations for establishing ecoregional hubs, a list of partners for the Center and ecoregional hubs, and scenarios requiring the use of nonnative plants. Another every 5 years that assesses the adequacy of native plant material inventory and distribution for post-disaster restoration and revegetation needs.
- j) Authorization of Appropriations—Authorizes \$100 million per fiscal year over 5 years.