
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the city and county
2 of Honolulu, with a population of approximately 900,000, is the
3 largest and the fastest growing county in the State, in view of
4 major developments occurring in the west Oahu area. As the
5 population expands in the west Oahu area, the need for
6 government services is expected to increase.

7 The legislature believes, however, that demands for county-
8 level services will be greater than demands for state-level
9 services and that the splitting of the city and county of
10 Honolulu into two separate counties, one for west Oahu and one
11 for east Oahu, would better serve all residents of the island of
12 Oahu for the following reasons:

13 (1) Existing communities such as Schofield Barracks,
14 Wheeler, Mililani, Wahiawa, Haleiwa, Waianae, Waialua,
15 Sunset Beach, Kahuku, and Laie provide the basic
16 framework for a future metropolis on the west side of
17 the island of Oahu;



- 1 (2) Existing utility infrastructure systems such as
2 roadways, water, drainage, electrical, and sewer
3 systems can be improved, upgraded, and expanded in
4 these communities;
- 5 (3) Public facilities such as schools, parks, playgrounds,
6 and recreational centers, and medical, civic, and
7 governmental (police, fire, and emergency medical)
8 services can be expanded;
- 9 (4) Private facilities such as medical, dental, health
10 care, business, manufacturing, and retail complexes
11 can be expanded;
- 12 (5) Existing employment sectors such as industrial,
13 manufacturing, wholesale, and retail centers can be
14 expanded;
- 15 (6) Existing agricultural sectors can be integrated and
16 expanded;
- 17 (7) Existing and future communities can be environmentally
18 equipped for water reuse, sewer, solid waste,
19 drainage, and alternative energy infrastructure
20 systems;
- 21 (8) Existing and future communities can be master-planned
22 with pedestrian-oriented townscapes;



1 (9) Existing and future communities can be master-planned
2 to promote and sustain economic development, including
3 new eco-tourism, high-technology, pollution-free, and
4 environmentally-oriented industries;

5 (10) Existing and future communities can be economically
6 self-sustaining, including community-operated
7 recycling, trash pickup, and emergency (police,
8 security, medical, fire, and communication) services;

9 (11) Existing and new communities can be taxed at a
10 graduated rate to amortize the capital, repair, and
11 maintenance costs of the utility infrastructure, and
12 the public and private facilities; and

13 (12) Existing and future communities can be master-planned
14 to allow efficient and time-saving commuting options
15 between communities and between the employment,
16 educational, recreational, and service sectors.

17 The purpose of this Act is to establish a blue ribbon
18 committee to reorganize the city and county of Honolulu into two
19 counties.

20 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a blue ribbon
21 committee to reorganize the city and county of Honolulu into two



1 separate counties. The committee shall be composed of eleven
2 members, of which:

3 (1) Four shall be appointed by the mayor of the city and
4 county of Honolulu;

5 (2) Four shall be appointed by the chair of the council of
6 the city and county of Honolulu; and

7 (3) The remaining three shall be appointed by the governor
8 from lists submitted by the president of the senate
9 and the speaker of the house of representatives.

10 The members of the committee shall not receive compensation, but
11 shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred in the
12 actual conduct of business on behalf of the committee. The
13 committee may hire necessary staff to assist in carrying out its
14 responsibilities.

15 (b) In conducting its reorganization planning effort and
16 making its recommendations, the committee shall consider:

17 (1) Distribution of the population in the city and county
18 of Honolulu and the needs for and accessibility to
19 county government services by the various population
20 segments;

21 (2) Functions and responsibilities of the city and county
22 of Honolulu government, the effectiveness of the



1 delivery of services through the current organization,
2 and recommendations as to how services should be
3 delivered through the new counties; and

- 4 (3) Feasibility of establishing one west Oahu county
5 consisting of Pearlridge, Pearl City, Waipahu,
6 Mililani, Wahiawa, Haleiwa, Waialua, Kaneohe, Kailua,
7 Kapolei, Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, and all areas in
8 between and one east Oahu county consisting of the
9 remaining areas of Oahu.

10 (c) The committee shall develop an implementation plan to
11 include:

- 12 (1) Maps depicting the proposed boundaries for the two
13 counties, and the number of council seats and the
14 apportionment thereof for each county;
- 15 (2) Recommendations for other changes required such as the
16 formulation of new county charters and the transfer of
17 funds, property, equipment, and personnel;
- 18 (3) A schedule reflecting the implementing actions
19 required to establish two separate counties, including
20 a referendum vote on the question of establishing two
21 separate counties, the formulation and ratification of



1 new county charters, and the construction of a new
2 county seat in west Oahu; and

3 (4) The fiscal requirements to implement the recommended
4 reorganization, including an estimate of changes, if
5 any, that would need to be made to existing county
6 real property tax rates, for each new county to raise
7 revenues adequate to maintain current levels of county
8 government services to all Oahu residents.

9 (d) Any provisions of this Act to the contrary
10 notwithstanding, the committee may also consider, at its
11 discretion, proposals from its members to reorganize the city
12 and county of Honolulu into three or more counties, using the
13 same criteria specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection
14 (b), and subject to development of an implementation plan
15 substantially similar to that required in subsection (c).

16 (e) The committee shall submit an interim report to the
17 governor, legislature, mayor, and council of the city and county
18 of Honolulu no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the 2009 regular session. The committee shall submit a final
20 report no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the
21 2010 regular session. The reports shall include the committee's



1 findings and recommendations and any proposed legislation. The
2 committee shall cease to exist on June 30, 2010.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
6 cover the expenses of the blue ribbon committee established by
7 this Act, including the hiring of necessary staff.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the city and
9 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.



Report Title:

Blue Ribbon Committee; City and County of Honolulu

Description:

Establishes a blue ribbon committee to reorganize the City and County of Honolulu into two or more counties. Appropriates funds. (HB2297 HD1)

