
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY.

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

1 SECTION 1. In 2007, the legislature, cognizant of the
2 impact world events may have on the flow of tourists to our
3 State, created the tourism emergency trust fund as a mechanism
4 to protect our visitors and residents in the event of national
5 disasters, terrorist threats, and other catastrophic
6 emergencies. Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2007, also
7 directed the Hawaii tourism authority to prepare and implement
8 response measures when a substantial interruption in the State's
9 tourism industry is threatened. The legislature finds that
10 tourism emergencies occur from many causes not originally
11 contemplated by Act 201, SLH 2007. A weakening national
12 economy, recession, and credit market crisis may not meet the
13 standard of a catastrophic event, making it difficult for the
14 tourism authority to address these issues under current law.

15 The purpose of this Act is to broaden the scope of a
16 "tourism emergency" to include regional and worldwide economic
17 crises that impact Hawaii's largest industry.



1 SECTION 2. Section 201B-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) If the board determines that the occurrence of a
4 world conflict, terrorist threat, natural disaster, outbreak of
5 disease, regional or worldwide economic crisis, or other
6 catastrophic event, regardless of when or where it occurs,
7 adversely affects Hawaii's tourism industry by resulting in a
8 substantial interruption in the commerce of the State and
9 adversely affecting the welfare of its people, the board shall
10 submit a request to the governor to declare that a tourism
11 emergency exists."

12 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Tourism Emergency

Description:

Broadens the scope of a "tourism emergency" to include a regional or worldwide economic crisis. (HB960 HD1)

