

JAN 23 2009

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 46-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§46-1.5 General powers and limitation of the counties.

4 Subject to general law, each county shall have the following
5 powers and shall be subject to the following liabilities and
6 limitations:

7 (1) Each county shall have the power to frame and adopt a
8 charter for its own self-government that shall
9 establish the county executive, administrative, and
10 legislative structure and organization, including but
11 not limited to the method of appointment or election
12 of officials, their duties, responsibilities, and
13 compensation, and the terms of their office;

14 (2) Each county shall have the power to provide for and
15 regulate the marking and lighting of all buildings and
16 other structures that may be obstructions or hazards
17 to aerial navigation, so far as may be necessary or



1 proper for the protection and safeguarding of life,
2 health, and property;

3 (3) Each county shall have the power to enforce all claims
4 on behalf of the county and approve all lawful claims
5 against the county, but shall be prohibited from
6 entering into, granting, or making in any manner any
7 contract, authorization, allowance payment, or
8 liability contrary to the provisions of any county
9 charter or general law;

10 (4) Each county shall have the power to make contracts and
11 to do all things necessary and proper to carry into
12 execution all powers vested in the county or any
13 county officer;

14 (5) Each county shall have the power to:

15 (A) Maintain channels, whether natural or artificial,
16 including their exits to the ocean, in suitable
17 condition to carry off storm waters;

18 (B) Remove from the channels, and from the shores and
19 beaches, any debris that is likely to create an
20 unsanitary condition or become a public nuisance;
21 provided that, to the extent any of the foregoing
22 work is a private responsibility, the



S.B. NO. 671

1 responsibility may be enforced by the county in
2 lieu of the work being done at public expense;

3 (C) Construct, acquire by gift, purchase, or by the
4 exercise of eminent domain, reconstruct, improve,
5 better, extend, and maintain projects or
6 undertakings for the control of and protection
7 against floods and flood waters, including the
8 power to drain and rehabilitate lands already
9 flooded; and

10 (D) Enact zoning ordinances providing that lands
11 deemed subject to seasonable, periodic, or
12 occasional flooding shall not be used for
13 residence or other purposes in a manner as to
14 endanger the health or safety of the occupants
15 thereof, as required by the Federal Flood
16 Insurance Act of 1956 (chapter 1025, Public Law
17 1016);

18 (6) Each county shall have the power to exercise the power
19 of condemnation by eminent domain when it is in the
20 public interest to do so;



- 1 (7) Each county shall have the power to exercise
2 regulatory powers over business activity as are
3 assigned to them by chapter 445 or other general law;
- 4 (8) Each county shall have the power to fix the fees and
5 charges for all official services not otherwise
6 provided for;
- 7 (9) Each county shall have the power to provide by
8 ordinance assessments for the improvement or
9 maintenance of districts within the county;
- 10 (10) Except as otherwise provided, no county shall have the
11 power to give or loan credit to, or in aid of, any
12 person or corporation, directly or indirectly, except
13 for a public purpose;
- 14 (11) Where not within the jurisdiction of the public
15 utilities commission, each county shall have the power
16 to regulate by ordinance the operation of motor
17 vehicle common carriers transporting passengers within
18 the county and adopt and amend rules the county deems
19 necessary for the public convenience and necessity;
- 20 (12) Each county shall have the power to enact and enforce
21 ordinances necessary to prevent or summarily remove
22 public nuisances and to compel the clearing or removal



1 of any public nuisance, refuse, and uncultivated
2 undergrowth from streets, sidewalks, public places,
3 and unoccupied lots. In connection with these powers,
4 each county may impose and enforce liens upon the
5 property for the cost to the county of removing and
6 completing the necessary work where the property
7 owners fail, after reasonable notice, to comply with
8 the ordinances. The authority provided by this
9 paragraph shall not be self-executing, but shall
10 become fully effective within a county only upon the
11 enactment or adoption by the county of appropriate and
12 particular laws, ordinances, or rules defining "public
13 nuisances" with respect to each county's respective
14 circumstances. The counties shall provide the
15 property owner with the opportunity to contest the
16 summary action and to recover the owner's property;

17 (13) Each county shall have the power to enact ordinances
18 deemed necessary to protect health, life, and
19 property, and to preserve the order and security of
20 the county and its inhabitants on any subject or
21 matter not inconsistent with, or tending to defeat,
22 the intent of any state statute where the statute does



1 not disclose an express or implied intent that the
2 statute shall be exclusive or uniform throughout the
3 State;

4 (14) Each county shall have the power to:

5 (A) Make and enforce within the limits of the county
6 all necessary ordinances covering all:

7 (i) Local police matters;

8 (ii) Matters of sanitation;

9 (iii) Matters of inspection of buildings;

10 (iv) Matters of condemnation of unsafe

11 structures, plumbing, sewers, dairies, milk,
12 fish, and morgues; and

13 (v) Matters of the collection and disposition of
14 rubbish and garbage;

15 (B) Provide exemptions for homeless facilities and
16 any other program for the homeless authorized by
17 chapter 356D, for all matters under this
18 paragraph;

19 (C) Appoint county physicians and sanitary and other
20 inspectors as necessary to carry into effect
21 ordinances made under this paragraph, who shall
22 have the same power as given by law to agents of



1 the department of health, subject only to
2 limitations placed on them by the terms and
3 conditions of their appointments; and
4 (D) Fix a penalty for the violation of any ordinance,
5 which penalty may be a misdemeanor, petty
6 misdemeanor, or violation as defined by general
7 law;
8 (15) Each county shall have the power to provide public
9 pounds; to regulate the impounding of stray animals
10 and fowl, and their disposition; and to provide for
11 the appointment, powers, duties, and fees of animal
12 control officers;
13 (16) Each county shall have the power to purchase and
14 otherwise acquire, lease, and hold real and personal
15 property within the defined boundaries of the county
16 and to dispose of the real and personal property as
17 the interests of the inhabitants of the county may
18 require, except that:
19 (A) Any property held for school purposes may not be
20 disposed of without the consent of the
21 superintendent of education;

- 1 (B) No property bordering the ocean shall be sold or
- 2 otherwise disposed of; and
- 3 (C) All proceeds from the sale of park lands shall be
- 4 expended only for the acquisition of property for
- 5 park or recreational purposes;
- 6 (17) Each county shall have the power to provide by charter
- 7 for the prosecution of all offenses and to prosecute
- 8 for offenses against the laws of the State under the
- 9 authority of the attorney general of the State;
- 10 (18) Each county shall have the power to make
- 11 appropriations in amounts deemed appropriate from any
- 12 moneys in the treasury, for the purpose of:
- 13 (A) Community promotion and public celebrations;
- 14 (B) The entertainment of distinguished persons as may
- 15 from time to time visit the county;
- 16 (C) The entertainment of other distinguished persons,
- 17 as well as, public officials when deemed to be in
- 18 the best interest of the community; ~~and~~
- 19 (D) The rendering of civic tribute to individuals
- 20 who, by virtue of their accomplishments and
- 21 community service, merit civic commendations,
- 22 recognition, or remembrance; and



1 (E) Providing contingency relief funds, upon prior
2 public notice and public hearing;

3 (19) Each county shall have the power to:

4 (A) Construct, purchase, take on lease, lease,
5 sublease, or in any other manner acquire, manage,
6 maintain, or dispose of buildings for county
7 purposes, sewers, sewer systems, pumping
8 stations, waterworks, including reservoirs,
9 wells, pipelines, and other conduits for
10 distributing water to the public, lighting
11 plants, and apparatus and appliances for lighting
12 streets and public buildings, and manage,
13 regulate, and control the same;

14 (B) Regulate and control the location and quality of
15 all appliances necessary to the furnishing of
16 water, heat, light, power, telephone, and
17 telecommunications service to the county;

18 (C) Acquire, regulate, and control any and all
19 appliances for the sprinkling and cleaning of the
20 streets and the public ways, and for flushing the
21 sewers; and



- 1 (D) Open, close, construct, or maintain county
- 2 highways or charge toll on county highways;
- 3 provided that all revenues received from a toll
- 4 charge shall be used for the construction or
- 5 maintenance of county highways;
- 6 (20) Each county shall have the power to regulate the
- 7 renting, subletting, and rental conditions of property
- 8 for places of abode by ordinance;
- 9 (21) Unless otherwise provided by law, each county shall
- 10 have the power to establish by ordinance the order of
- 11 succession of county officials in the event of a
- 12 military or civil disaster;
- 13 (22) Each county shall have the power to sue and be sued in
- 14 its corporate name;
- 15 (23) Each county shall have the power to establish and
- 16 maintain waterworks and sewer works; to collect rates
- 17 for water supplied to consumers and for the use of
- 18 sewers; to install water meters whenever deemed
- 19 expedient; provided that owners of premises having
- 20 vested water rights under existing laws appurtenant to
- 21 the premises shall not be charged for the installation
- 22 or use of the water meters on the premises; to take



1 over from the State existing waterworks systems,
2 including water rights, pipelines, and other
3 appurtenances belonging thereto, and sewer systems,
4 and to enlarge, develop, and improve the same;

5 (24) (A) Each county may impose civil fines, in addition
6 to criminal penalties, for any violation of
7 county ordinances or rules after reasonable
8 notice and requests to correct or cease the
9 violation have been made upon the violator. Any
10 administratively imposed civil fine shall not be
11 collected until after an opportunity for a
12 hearing under chapter 91. Any appeal shall be
13 filed within thirty days from the date of the
14 final written decision. These proceedings shall
15 not be a prerequisite for any civil fine or
16 injunctive relief ordered by the circuit court;

17 (B) Each county by ordinance may provide for the
18 addition of any unpaid civil fines, ordered by
19 any court of competent jurisdiction, to any
20 taxes, fees, or charges, with the exception of
21 fees or charges for water for residential use and
22 sewer charges, collected by the county. Each



1 county by ordinance may also provide for the
2 addition of any unpaid administratively imposed
3 civil fines, which remain due after all judicial
4 review rights under section 91-14 are exhausted,
5 to any taxes, fees, or charges, with the
6 exception of water for residential use and sewer
7 charges, collected by the county. The ordinance
8 shall specify the administrative procedures for
9 the addition of the unpaid civil fines to the
10 eligible taxes, fees, or charges and may require
11 hearings or other proceedings. After addition of
12 the unpaid civil fines to the taxes, fees, or
13 charges, the unpaid civil fines shall not become
14 a part of any taxes, fees, or charges. The
15 county by ordinance may condition the issuance or
16 renewal of a license, approval, or permit for
17 which a fee or charge is assessed, except for
18 water for residential use and sewer charges, on
19 payment of the unpaid civil fines. Upon
20 recordation of a notice of unpaid civil fines in
21 the bureau of conveyances, the amount of the
22 civil fines, including any increase in the amount



1 of the fine which the county may assess, shall
2 constitute a lien upon all real property or
3 rights to real property belonging to any person
4 liable for the unpaid civil fines. The lien in
5 favor of the county shall be subordinate to any
6 lien in favor of any person recorded or
7 registered prior to the recordation of the notice
8 of unpaid civil fines and senior to any lien
9 recorded or registered after the recordation of
10 the notice. The lien shall continue until the
11 unpaid civil fines are paid in full or until a
12 certificate of release or partial release of the
13 lien, prepared by the county at the owner's
14 expense, is recorded. The notice of unpaid civil
15 fines shall state the amount of the fine as of
16 the date of the notice and maximum permissible
17 daily increase of the fine. The county shall not
18 be required to include a social security number,
19 state general excise taxpayer identification
20 number, or federal employer identification number
21 on the notice. Recordation of the notice in the
22 bureau of conveyances shall be deemed, at such



1 time, for all purposes and without any further
2 action, to procure a lien on land registered in
3 land court under chapter 501. After the unpaid
4 civil fines are added to the taxes, fees, or
5 charges as specified by county ordinance, the
6 unpaid civil fines shall be deemed immediately
7 due, owing, and delinquent and may be collected
8 in any lawful manner. The procedure for
9 collection of unpaid civil fines authorized in
10 this paragraph shall be in addition to any other
11 procedures for collection available to the State
12 and county by law or rules of the courts;

13 (C) Each county may impose civil fines upon any
14 person who places graffiti on any real or
15 personal property owned, managed, or maintained
16 by the county. The fine may be up to \$1,000 or
17 may be equal to the actual cost of having the
18 damaged property repaired or replaced. The
19 parent or guardian having custody of a minor who
20 places graffiti on any real or personal property
21 owned, managed, or maintained by the county shall
22 be jointly and severally liable with the minor



1 for any civil fines imposed hereunder. Any such
2 fine may be administratively imposed after an
3 opportunity for a hearing under chapter 91, but
4 such a proceeding shall not be a prerequisite for
5 any civil fine ordered by any court. As used in
6 this subparagraph, "graffiti" means any
7 unauthorized drawing, inscription, figure, or
8 mark of any type intentionally created by paint,
9 ink, chalk, dye, or similar substances;

10 (D) At the completion of an appeal in which the
11 county's enforcement action is affirmed and upon
12 correction of the violation if requested by the
13 violator, the case shall be reviewed by the
14 county agency that imposed the civil fines to
15 determine the appropriateness of the amount of
16 the civil fines that accrued while the appeal
17 proceedings were pending. In its review of the
18 amount of the accrued fines, the county agency
19 may consider:

20 (i) The nature and egregiousness of the
21 violation;

22 (ii) The duration of the violation;



- 1 (iii) The number of recurring and other similar
 - 2 violations;
 - 3 (iv) Any effort taken by the violator to correct
 - 4 the violation;
 - 5 (v) The degree of involvement in causing or
 - 6 continuing the violation;
 - 7 (vi) Reasons for any delay in the completion of
 - 8 the appeal; and
 - 9 (vii) Other extenuating circumstances.
- 10 The civil fine that is imposed by administrative
- 11 order after this review is completed and the
- 12 violation is corrected shall be subject to
- 13 judicial review, notwithstanding any provisions
- 14 for administrative review in county charters;
- 15 (E) After completion of a review of the amount of
- 16 accrued civil fine by the county agency that
- 17 imposed the fine, the amount of the civil fine
- 18 determined appropriate, including both the
- 19 initial civil fine and any accrued daily civil
- 20 fine, shall immediately become due and
- 21 collectible following reasonable notice to the
- 22 violator. If no review of the accrued civil fine



1 is requested, the amount of the civil fine, not
2 to exceed the total accrual of civil fine prior
3 to correcting the violation, shall immediately
4 become due and collectible following reasonable
5 notice to the violator, at the completion of all
6 appeal proceedings;

7 (F) If no county agency exists to conduct appeal
8 proceedings for a particular civil fine action
9 taken by the county, then one shall be
10 established by ordinance before the county shall
11 impose the civil fine;

12 (25) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, any county
13 mayor may exempt by executive order donors, provider
14 agencies, homeless facilities, and any other program
15 for the homeless under chapter 356D from real property
16 taxes, water and sewer development fees, rates
17 collected for water supplied to consumers and for use
18 of sewers, and any other county taxes, charges, or
19 fees; provided that any county may enact ordinances to
20 regulate and grant the exemptions granted by this
21 paragraph;



S.B. NO. 671

1 (26) Any county may establish a captive insurance company
2 pursuant to article 19, chapter 431; and

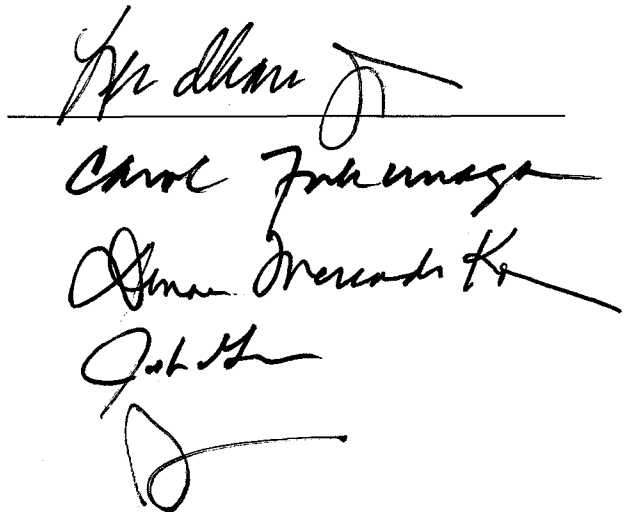
3 (27) Each county shall have the power to enact and enforce
4 ordinances regulating towing operations."

5 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8

INTRODUCED BY:





Report Title:

Counties; Powers; Contingency Relief Funds

Description:

Allows counties to make appropriations for contingency relief funds, upon public notice and hearing.

