
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOURISM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a
2 proliferation of organized tourism activities that utilize
3 agricultural and conservation zoned lands within the State that
4 have not been evaluated with regard to the appropriateness or
5 environmental impact that such activities may have on a
6 particular site.

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide for the evaluation of
8 tourism activities conducted on agricultural or conservation
9 zoned lands, by requiring the board of land and natural
10 resources to establish an ecotourism permit program to fulfill
11 the policies set forth by the Hawaii state planning act, as
12 outlined in section 226-13(b)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
15 designated and to read as follows:

16 "§195D-A Ecotourism permit program. (a) There is
17 established in the department of land and natural resources an
18 ecotourism permit program to require ecotourism operators to



1 meet guidelines established by the department for the health,
2 safety, and protection of the environment, including compliance
3 with chapter 343, as may be necessary.

4 (b) A valid ecotourism permit shall be a prerequisite for
5 any ecotourism operator to acquire a business license to operate
6 in the State.

7 (c) Any operator of an ecotourism operation that was in
8 existence in this State prior to the effective date of this Act
9 shall obtain an ecotourism permit no later than December 31,
10 2017.

11 (d) The department may charge a reasonable fee for a
12 permit issued under this section. All revenues collected
13 pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into the
14 environmental activities special fund established under section
15 195D-B.

16 (e) For the purposes of this section, "ecotourism" means a
17 low impact or small scale alternative to standard commercial
18 tourism involving visiting fragile, pristine, or protected
19 areas.

20 (f) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
21 chapter 91 to implement the purposes of this section.



1 §195D-B Environmental activities special fund. (a) There
2 is established an environmental activities special fund to be
3 administered by the department and into which shall be deposited
4 the following:

5 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;

6 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and
7 private persons;

8 (3) All proceeds collected by the department derived from
9 ecotourism permit program fees pursuant to section
10 195D-A; and

11 (4) All interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in
12 the fund.

13 (b) The department shall expend the moneys as follows:

14 (1) Not more than ten per cent for administrative costs;
15 and

16 (2) The remainder equally divided between the division of
17 conservation and resources enforcement and the
18 department of Hawaiian home lands."

19 SECTION 3. In codifying the new sections added by section
20 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
21 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
22 the new sections in this Act.



1 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 2812

Report Title:

Ecotourism Permit Program

Description:

Establishes an ecotourism permit program that requires ecotourism operators to meet guidelines established by DLNR prior to obtaining a business license. Establishes the environmental activities special fund to be administered by DLNR.

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