
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FEES FOR HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii hosts the
2 greatest concentration of threatened and endangered species in
3 the country. Increased development throughout the State, while
4 beneficial to the State in many regards, has the potential to
5 negatively affect threatened and endangered species. The
6 legislature has provided a means to permit desirable activities
7 that may cause incidental take of threatened and endangered
8 species through the establishment of incidental take licenses
9 and habitat conservation plans pursuant to chapter 195D, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes.

11 Incidental take licenses authorize take of threatened and
12 endangered species in cases where take is incidental to an
13 otherwise lawful activity; provided that the applicant obtains
14 approval of a habitat conservation plan that identifies and
15 implements measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, and monitor
16 take of those species, and that will increase the likelihood of
17 recovery of the endangered or threatened species that are the
18 focus of the plan.



1 The department of land and natural resources is responsible
2 for evaluating, processing, and approving habitat conservation
3 plans and incidental take licenses to ensure compliance with
4 requirements under chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.
5 Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides that the
6 department of land and natural resources may establish a
7 technical assistance program to assist landowners with habitat
8 conservation plans. The department has established such a
9 program, and the technical assistance that is required is
10 specialized in nature and labor-intensive, requiring
11 consultation with expert staff, endangered species biologists,
12 and land managers.

13 The number of applications for incidental take licenses and
14 requests for technical assistance related to habitat
15 conservation plans have increased significantly in recent years.
16 Demand for the technical assistance program cannot be met under
17 the department of land and natural resources' current budget.

18 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the department of
19 land and natural resources to collect fees to cover the
20 technical assistance program costs associated with assisting
21 landowners in the development, review, and monitoring of habitat



1 conservation plans, and to adopt rules for establishing such
2 fees.

3 SECTION 2. Section 195D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
5 and to read as follows:

6 "Technical assistance program" means any technical
7 assistance provided by designated department staff to assist
8 landowners in developing, reviewing, or monitoring habitat
9 conservation plans."

10 SECTION 3. Section 195D-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

12 "(d) The department may establish a habitat conservation
13 technical assistance program to assist landowners in developing,
14 reviewing, or monitoring habitat conservation plans by providing
15 technical assistance. The department may collect fees to cover
16 the technical assistance program costs, and shall adopt rules
17 pursuant to chapter 91 for establishing the fees. Fees
18 authorized by this subsection shall be deposited into the
19 endangered species trust fund established in section 195D-31."

20 SECTION 4. Section 195D-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1 "(a) There is established within the state treasury a
2 trust fund to be known as the endangered species trust fund to
3 be administered by the department to implement the purposes of
4 this chapter.

5 The fund shall consist of moneys from the following
6 sources:

- 7 (1) Moneys accrued from the sale of retail items
8 officially sponsored by the department for the fund;
- 9 (2) Private contributions for the management and recovery
10 of Hawaii's unique plants and animals;
- 11 (3) Fees and assessments charged for the commercial use of
12 public land and waters and designated for the fund;
- 13 (4) Penalties, fines, or auctions resulting from
14 enforcement violations;
- 15 (5) Legislative appropriations; [~~and~~]
- 16 (6) Moneys deposited to implement the obligations of a
17 habitat conservation plan [~~or~~], as security for
18 habitat conservation plan funding[-]; and
- 19 (7) Technical assistance program fees collected pursuant
20 to section 195-23."



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

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Habitat Conservation Plans; Fees

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to collect fees to cover the technical assistance program costs associated with habitat conservation plans, and adopt rules for establishing the fees. Effective July 1, 2030. (SB1311 HD1)

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