
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ATHLETICS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to address the
2 intercollegiate athletics program of the University of Hawaii.
3 More specifically, this Act:
4 (1) Appropriates moneys from the tourism special fund for
5 fiscal year 2016-2017 for travel expenses and
6 subsidies incurred for the intercollegiate athletics
7 program of the University of Hawaii; and
8 (2) Requires the governor to determine whether the funding
9 from the tourism special fund of the travel expenses
10 and subsidies of the intercollegiate athletics program
11 of the University of Hawaii should continue beyond
12 fiscal year 2016-2017. If the governor determines
13 that the funding should continue, then the governor is
14 required to take appropriate action to implement the
15 funding.

16 The intercollegiate athletics program of the University of
17 Hawaii is unique. The costs for University of Hawaii athletes
18 to travel to the mainland are high. Moreover, the University



1 must subsidize the travel expenses of some visiting teams that
2 come to Hawaii.

3 The legislature finds that the community places a high
4 value on and takes much pride in the intercollegiate athletics
5 program of the University of Hawaii. All teams and individuals
6 competing for the University of Hawaii have dedicated fans who
7 enjoy the efforts of the athletes and entertainment of sports
8 contests. In contemporary society, intercollegiate athletics
9 receive much publicity and media coverage, and the participation
10 of the University of Hawaii in various sports increases the
11 exposure of people on the mainland and in foreign countries to
12 the State of Hawaii. University of Hawaii athletes are also
13 "ambassadors of Aloha" when they travel out-of-state, and
14 athletes have an opportunity to uniquely and authentically
15 represent Hawaii. University of Hawaii games and events that
16 are televised nationally and internationally also are important
17 marketing tools to attract visitors to the State and showcase a
18 premier higher education institution. Family, friends, and
19 supporters of visiting schools often accompany the teams and
20 stay for an extended time after the games.



1 Consequently, the legislature finds that expenditures from
2 the tourism special fund, the proceeds of which are primarily
3 derived from the transient accommodations tax, are justifiable
4 for the travel expenses and subsidies incurred by the University
5 of Hawaii for its intercollegiate athletics program.

6 The legislature further finds that the governor should
7 determine whether the use of tourism special funds for travel
8 expenses and subsidies of the intercollegiate athletic program
9 of the University of Hawaii should continue beyond the fiscal
10 year 2016-2017.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the tourism
12 special fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,000,000 or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
14 the payment of travel expenses and travel subsidies incurred for
15 the intercollegiate athletic program of the University of
16 Hawaii.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
18 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary
20 in chapters 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, chapter 237D, Hawaii
21 Revised Statutes, or any other law, the expenditure of the



1 appropriation in section 2 for the purpose specified in that
2 section for fiscal year 2016-2017 shall be authorized.

3 SECTION 4. (a) The governor shall determine whether the
4 travel expenses and subsidies incurred for the intercollegiate
5 athletics program of the University of Hawaii should continue to
6 be funded from the tourism special fund beyond fiscal year 2016-
7 2017.

8 (b) If the governor determines that the funding from the
9 tourism special fund for the intercollegiate athletics program
10 of the University of Hawaii should continue, the governor:

11 (1) Shall include an appropriation request in the
12 executive budget for fiscal biennium 2017-2019 to
13 implement the funding from the tourism special fund;
14 and

15 (2) May recommend necessary amendments to chapter 201B or
16 chapter 237D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

18



Report Title:

University of Hawaii Intercollegiate Athletics Program; Tourism
Special Fund Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation from the tourism special fund for fiscal year 2016-2017 for travel expenses and subsidies incurred by the intercollegiate athletics program of the University of Hawaii. Requires the governor to determine whether the funding for the travel expenses and subsidies should continue beyond fiscal year 2016-2017. Requires, if determining that such funding should continue, the governor to take appropriate action to implement the determination. (SD1)

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