
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that intercollegiate
2 athletics programs of the University of Hawaii are unique when
3 compared to athletic programs at other institutions. The
4 legislature further finds that the community places a high value
5 on, and takes much pride in, the intercollegiate athletics
6 programs of the University of Hawaii. All teams and individuals
7 competing for the university have dedicated fans who enjoy the
8 efforts of the athletes and entertainment of sports contests.

9 The legislature also finds that in contemporary society,
10 intercollegiate athletics receive much publicity and media
11 coverage, and the participation of the University of Hawaii in
12 various sports increases the exposure of people on the mainland
13 and in foreign countries to the State of Hawaii. University of
14 Hawaii athletes are also "Ambassadors of Aloha" when they travel
15 out-of-state, and athletes have an opportunity to uniquely and
16 authentically represent Hawaii. Games and events that are
17 televised nationally and internationally also are important
18 marketing tools to attract visitors to the State and showcase a



1 premier higher education institution. Family, friends, and
2 supporters of visiting schools often accompany the teams and
3 stay for an extended time.

4 The legislature finds that the costs for University of
5 Hawaii at Manoa student athletes to travel to the mainland are
6 high because of the distance traveled. Moreover, the university
7 must subsidize the travel expenses of some visiting teams that
8 come to Hawaii. Lastly, the scholarship costs are higher at the
9 University of Hawaii at Manoa when compared to peer universities
10 because its athletic program has a higher percentage of non-
11 resident student-athletes. In total, University of Hawaii at
12 Manoa athletic costs are \$5,200,000 higher than its peer
13 institutions. As a result, rather than competing in collegiate
14 athletics on a level playing field, University of Hawaii at
15 Manoa athletics is at a competitive disadvantage because a
16 significant portion of its budget must be used to offset costs
17 that other athletic programs do not have.

18 The legislature also finds that athletics at the University
19 of Hawaii at Hilo is a source of great pride to the community of
20 Hilo and the Big Island. There is a vibrant history of
21 connection between the community and the university's "Vulcan"



1 athletics. Vulcan athletics not only provides a source of
2 community activity, but is a key component contributing to the
3 overall student life experience for the diverse campus body.
4 University of Hawaii at Hilo athletics is a significant economic
5 driver to the island of Hawaii's economy, bringing in thousands
6 of people from visiting teams and families each year. Such
7 activity positively benefits the local businesses of hotels,
8 restaurants, airlines, car rental agencies, and other small
9 businesses. University of Hawaii at Hilo athletics is of great
10 community and economic benefit to the Big Island, neighbor
11 island communities, and the State.

12 The purpose of this Act is to address the intercollegiate
13 athletics program of the University of Hawaii. Specifically,
14 this Act requires that moneys from the tourism special fund be
15 distributed to the University of Hawaii at Manoa and University
16 of Hawaii at Hilo for the next two fiscal years to offset the
17 higher and unique costs of the schools' athletic programs.

18 SECTION 2. Section 201B-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

20 "(c) Moneys in the tourism special fund shall be used by
21 the authority for the purposes of this chapter, provided that:



- 1 (1) Not more than 3.5 per cent of this amount shall be
2 used for administrative expenses, including \$15,000
3 for a protocol fund to be expended at the discretion
4 of the president and chief executive officer; [~~and~~]
- 5 (2) At least \$1,000,000 shall be made available to support
6 efforts to manage, improve, and protect Hawaii's
7 natural environment and areas frequented by
8 visitors[-]; and
- 9 (3) Beginning on July 1, 2017, and each fiscal year
10 thereafter, \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the
11 University of Hawaii at Manoa intercollegiate
12 athletics special fund and the University of Hawaii at
13 Hilo intercollegiate athletics special fund
14 established pursuant to section 304A-2176."

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
18 provided that on June 30, 2019, section 2 of this Act shall be
19 repealed and section 201B-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be
20 reenacted in the form in which it read on the day before the
21 effective date of this Act.



S.B. NO. 1252
S.D. 1

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Hawaii Tourism Authority; Tourism Special Fund; Intercollegiate Athletics Program

Description:

Allocates money from the tourism special fund to help fund the intercollegiate athletic programs at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and University of Hawaii at Hilo to offset the higher costs that the University of Hawaii must pay for athletics compared to peer institutions. Repeals 6/30/2019. (SD1)

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