

JAN 20 2017

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an ever increasing  
2 number of visitors can negatively impact the quality of life of  
3 Hawaii residents by straining the State's infrastructure and  
4 natural resources. The legislature further finds that, although  
5 the Hawaii tourism authority advocates for a high quality  
6 tourism experience and increased revenue generation by visitors  
7 instead of increased numbers of visitors, the number of annual  
8 visitors to the State has steadily risen over time. Between  
9 2009 and 2014, the total number of annual visitors increased  
10 every year, from 6,517,054 in 2009 to 8,308,114 in 2014.

11           The purpose of this Act is to support the State's tourism  
12 industry by allocating an appropriate portion of the Hawaii  
13 tourism authority's budget to the protection and enhancement of  
14 the State's infrastructure and natural resources.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
17 and to read as follows:



1           "§201B- Hawaii tourism authority budget allocations.

2           (a) If, in any fiscal year:

3           (1) The total number of visitor arrivals to the State  
4           exceeds nine million; or

5           (2) The total number of visitor arrivals to any county  
6           exceeds six million;

7           fifteen per cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget,  
8           including any transient accommodations tax revenues to be  
9           allocated and expended pursuant to section 237D-6.5(b)(5), for  
10          the following fiscal year shall be distributed pursuant to  
11          subsection (b) to support public infrastructure and natural  
12          resources. In addition to the fifteen per cent distribution,  
13          five per cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget,  
14          multiplied by the greater of:

15          (1) The number of increments of 500,000 visitor arrivals  
16          in excess of nine million visitor arrivals in the  
17          State; or

18          (2) The number of increments of 125,000 visitor arrivals  
19          in excess of six million visitor arrivals in any  
20          county,



1 shall be distributed pursuant to subsection (b); provided that  
2 the total distribution amount shall not exceed forty-five per  
3 cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget in that fiscal  
4 year.

5 (b) Moneys subject to distribution under subsection (a)  
6 shall be distributed as follows:

7 (1) Fifty per cent shall be transferred to the general  
8 fund of the State of Hawaii to be expended by the  
9 department of land and natural resources to conserve  
10 natural resources that are or may be affected by  
11 increased numbers of visitors; and

12 (2) Fifty per cent shall be distributed among the counties  
13 in proportion to the number of visitor arrivals in  
14 each county, with individuals who visit multiple  
15 counties counting as a visitor arrival in each county  
16 visited, to be expended to develop and support  
17 infrastructure that is or may be affected by increased  
18 numbers of visitors."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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# S.B. NO. 703

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 703

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Tourism Authority; Visitor Arrivals; Natural Resources;  
Infrastructure

**Description:**

Requires that a percentage of the Hawaii tourism authority budget be transferred to the department of land and natural resources and the counties if the number of visitor arrivals in the State exceeds nine million, or if the number of visitor arrivals in any county exceeds six million.

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