
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOURISM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to:

2 (1) Allocate funds from transient accommodations tax
3 revenues, to be matched by private or county funds, to
4 the Hawaii tourism authority to support initiatives,
5 in conjunction with the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism
6 Association, to mitigate the negative impacts on
7 communities caused by tourism activities;

8 (2) Appropriate funds for the na ala hele program to
9 improve access to and maintain state-controlled
10 recreational trails statewide and to develop and
11 implement a public awareness campaign that promotes
12 hiker safety and hiker etiquette education and
13 outreach; and

14 (3) Appropriate funds to the fire departments of each
15 county to support search and rescue missions of
16 stranded hikers lost on hiking trails.



1 SECTION 2. Section 237D-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) Except for the revenues collected pursuant to section
4 237D-2(e), revenues collected under this chapter shall be
5 distributed in the following priority, with the excess revenues
6 to be deposited into the general fund:

7 (1) \$1,500,000 shall be allocated to the Turtle Bay
8 conservation easement special fund beginning July 1,
9 2015, for the reimbursement to the state general fund
10 of debt service on reimbursable general obligation
11 bonds, including ongoing expenses related to the
12 issuance of the bonds, the proceeds of which were used
13 to acquire the conservation easement and other real
14 property interests in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the
15 protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural
16 resources important to the State, until the bonds are
17 fully amortized;

18 (2) \$26,500,000 shall be allocated to the convention
19 center enterprise special fund established under
20 section 201B-8;



1 (3) \$82,000,000 shall be allocated to the tourism special
2 fund established under section 201B-11; provided that:

3 (A) Beginning on July 1, 2012, and ending on June 30,
4 2015, \$2,000,000 shall be expended from the
5 tourism special fund for development and
6 implementation of initiatives to take advantage
7 of expanded visa programs and increased travel
8 opportunities for international visitors to
9 Hawaii;

10 (B) Of the \$82,000,000 allocated:

11 (i) \$1,000,000 shall be allocated for the
12 operation of a Hawaiian center and the
13 museum of Hawaiian music and dance at the
14 Hawaii convention center; and

15 (ii) 0.5 per cent of the \$82,000,000 shall be
16 transferred to a sub-account in the tourism
17 special fund to provide funding for a safety
18 and security budget, in accordance with the
19 Hawaii tourism strategic plan 2005-2015; and

20 (C) Of the revenues remaining in the tourism special
21 fund after revenues have been deposited as



1 provided in this paragraph and except for any sum
2 authorized by the legislature for expenditure
3 from revenues subject to this paragraph,
4 beginning July 1, 2007, funds shall be deposited
5 into the tourism emergency special fund,
6 established in section 201B-10, in a manner
7 sufficient to maintain a fund balance of
8 \$5,000,000 in the tourism emergency special fund;

9 (4) \$103,000,000 shall be allocated as follows: Kauai
10 county shall receive 14.5 per cent, Hawaii county
11 shall receive 18.6 per cent, city and county of
12 Honolulu shall receive 44.1 per cent, and Maui county
13 shall receive 22.8 per cent; provided that commencing
14 with fiscal year 2018-2019, a sum that represents the
15 difference between a county public employer's annual
16 required contribution for the separate trust fund
17 established under section 87A-42 and the amount of the
18 county public employer's contributions into that trust
19 fund shall be retained by the state director of
20 finance and deposited to the credit of the county
21 public employer's annual required contribution into



1 that trust fund in each fiscal year, as provided in
2 section 87A-42, if the respective county fails to
3 remit the total amount of the county's required annual
4 contributions, as required under section 87A-43; ~~and~~
5 (5) \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the special land and
6 development fund established under section 171-19;
7 provided that the allocation shall be expended in
8 accordance with the Hawaii tourism authority strategic
9 plan for:

- 10 (A) The protection, preservation, maintenance, and
11 enhancement of natural resources, including
12 beaches, important to the visitor industry;
13 (B) Planning, construction, and repair of facilities;
14 and
15 (C) Operation and maintenance costs of public lands,
16 including beaches, connected with enhancing the
17 visitor experience~~[]~~;

18 (6) \$ shall be allocated to na ala hele, the
19 Hawaii statewide trail and access program, for:

- 20 (A) Improving access to and maintaining state-
21 controlled recreational trails statewide; and



1 (B) Developing and implementing a public awareness
2 campaign that promotes hiker safety and hiker
3 etiquette education and outreach; and

4 (7) \$ shall be allocated to the Hawaii tourism
5 authority to support initiatives, with input from the
6 Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, that mitigate
7 the negative impacts on communities caused by tourist
8 activity; provided that no funds shall be released
9 unless matched dollar-for-dollar by the private
10 sector, the applicable county, or a combination of
11 both.

12 All transient accommodations taxes shall be paid into the
13 state treasury each month within ten days after collection and
14 shall be kept by the state director of finance in special
15 accounts for distribution as provided in this subsection.

16 As used in this subsection, "fiscal year" means the twelve-
17 month period beginning on July 1 of a calendar year and ending
18 on June 30 of the following calendar year."

19 SECTION 3. The Hawaii tourism authority shall submit a
20 report on the expenditure of funds to the legislature no later
21 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session



1 of 2019. The report shall include amounts expended for specific
2 initiatives and the mitigating impact of the expenditure for
3 each initiative.

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to
7 support search and rescue missions of stranded hikers lost on
8 hiking trails; provided that the sum appropriated shall be
9 equally divided among the fire departments of the counties of
10 Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, and the City and County of Honolulu.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the respective
12 fire department of each county of the State for the purposes of
13 this Act.

14 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

Transient Accommodations Tax; Allocation; Hawaii Tourism
Authority; Mitigation of Tourist Activity Impacts; Na Ala Hele;
Search and Rescue; Appropriation

Description:

Allocates funds from transient accommodations tax revenues, to be matched by private or county funds, to the Hawaii Tourism Authority to support initiatives, with input from the Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, to mitigate the negative impacts on communities caused by tourism activity and allocates transient accommodations tax revenues to na ala hele, the Hawaii statewide trail and access program. Appropriates funds to the fire departments of each county to support search and rescue missions for stranded hikers lost on hiking trails. (SD1)

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