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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEASE EXTENSIONS ON PUBLIC LAND.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many of the leases  
2 for commercial, industrial, resort, and government properties on  
3 public land statewide may be nearing the end of the lease term.  
4 Faced with the uncertainty of continued tenancy, lessees have  
5 little incentive to make major investments in infrastructural  
6 improvements and to ensure the long-term maintenance of the  
7 facilities. As a result, the infrastructure on these properties  
8 has been deteriorating.

9           The legislature finds that business lessees typically sell  
10 or assign their leases that are nearing the end of the lease  
11 terms at a discount. The legislature further finds that it  
12 would be unfair to the prior assignors of the leases if the  
13 State granted extensions of leases that previously could not be  
14 extended under existing law or lease terms to the newly assigned  
15 lessees who acquired their leases at a discount due to short  
16 remaining lease terms.



1           The purpose of this Act is to authorize the board of land  
2 and natural resources to extend commercial, industrial, resort,  
3 or governmental leases, other than those to which the University  
4 of Hawaii is a party, that have not been sold or assigned within  
5 the last ten years, for lessees who commit to substantial  
6 improvement to the existing improvements.

7           SECTION 2. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
9 designated and to read as follows:

10           "§171-       Commercial, industrial, resort, or government  
11 leases; extension of term. (a) Notwithstanding section 171-36,  
12 for leases that have not been assigned or transferred within ten  
13 years prior to receipt of an application for a lease extension  
14 submitted pursuant to this section, the board may extend the  
15 rental period of a lease of public lands for commercial use,  
16 industrial use, resort use, or government use upon approval by  
17 the board of a development agreement proposed by the lessee or  
18 by the lessee and developer to make substantial improvements to  
19 the existing improvements; provided that this section shall not  
20 apply to public lands controlled by the department of Hawaiian



1 home lands and leased pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission  
2 Act of 1920, as amended.

3 (b) Prior to entering into a development agreement, the  
4 lessee or the lessee and developer shall submit to the board the  
5 plans and specifications for the total development proposed.  
6 The board shall review the plans and specifications and  
7 determine:

- 8 (1) Whether the development proposed in the development  
9 agreement is of sufficient worth and value to justify  
10 the extension of the lease;  
11 (2) The estimated period of time to complete the  
12 improvements and expected date of completion of the  
13 improvements; and  
14 (3) The minimum revised annual rent based on the fair  
15 market value of the lands to be developed, as  
16 determined by an appraiser for the board, and if  
17 deemed appropriate by an appraiser, the appropriate  
18 percentage of rent where gross receipts exceed a  
19 specified amount.



1 No lease extension shall be approved until the board and the  
2 lessee or the lessee and developer mutually agree to the terms  
3 and conditions of the development agreement.

4 (c) No construction shall commence until the lessee or the  
5 lessee and developer have filed with the board a sufficient bond  
6 conditioned upon the full and faithful performance of all the  
7 terms and conditions of the development agreement.

8 (d) Any extension of a lease pursuant to this section  
9 shall be based upon the substantial improvements to be made and  
10 shall be for a period not longer than forty years. No lease  
11 shall be transferable or assignable throughout the first ten  
12 years of the extended term, except by devise, bequest, or  
13 intestate succession. The prohibition on assignments and  
14 transfer of leases includes a prohibition on conveyances of  
15 leases and a prohibition on the sale or change in ownership, by  
16 more than twenty per cent, of a lessee that is a company or  
17 entity. During subsequent periods of the extended term of the  
18 lease, the lease may be subleased, subject to approval by the  
19 board.

20 (e) The applicant for a lease extension shall pay all  
21 costs and expenses incurred by the department in connection with



1 processing, analyzing, or negotiating any lease extension  
2 request, lease document, or development agreement under this  
3 section.

4 (f) As used in this section:

5 "Government use" means a development undertaken under a  
6 lease held by any agency or department of the State or its  
7 political subdivisions other than the University of Hawaii or  
8 any department, agency, or administratively attached entity of  
9 the University of Hawaii system.

10 "Resort use" means a development that provides transient  
11 accommodations as defined in section 237D-1 and related  
12 services, which may include a front desk, housekeeping, food and  
13 beverage, room service, and other services customarily  
14 associated with transient accommodations; provided that no  
15 development shall qualify as a resort use under this section  
16 unless at least seventy-five per cent of the living or sleeping  
17 quarters in the development are used solely for transient  
18 accommodations for the term of any lease extension.

19 "Substantial improvements" means any renovation,  
20 rehabilitation, reconstruction, or construction of existing  
21 improvements, including minimum requirements for off-site and



1 on-site improvements, the cost of which equals or exceeds thirty  
2 per cent of the market value of the existing improvements, that  
3 the lessee or the lessee and developer installs, constructs, and  
4 completes by the date of completion of the total development."

5 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
7 and shall be repealed on June 30, 2024.



**Report Title:**

BLNR; Public Lands; Lease Extension; Development Agreement

**Description:**

Authorizes the Board of Land and Natural Resources to extend certain leases of public lands for commercial, industrial, resort, or government use upon approval of a proposed development agreement to make substantial improvements to the existing improvements. Sunsets on 6/30/2024. (SD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

