

JAN 17 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONSERVATION FUNDING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the impacts of the
2 visitor industry on the State's ecosystem and environment have
3 reached a critical juncture. The protection and restoration of
4 Hawaii's natural resources are critical to maintaining the
5 State's culture, economy, and quality of life.

6 The legislature further finds that the department of land
7 and natural resources lacks adequate funding to address the
8 threats to lands and resources within its extensive
9 jurisdiction, which comprises seven hundred and fifty miles of
10 coastline and more than 1,300,000 acres of state lands, beaches,
11 and coastal waters.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to provide funding
13 to update and improve the State's natural resources conservation
14 programs by allocating to the department of land and natural
15 resources a greater portion of the transient accommodations tax
16 revenues.



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

3 "(c) Moneys in the tourism special fund shall be used by
4 the authority for the purposes of this chapter, provided that[+]

5 ~~(1) Not]~~ not more than 3.5 per cent of this amount shall
6 be used for administrative expenses, including \$15,000
7 for a protocol fund to be expended at the discretion
8 of the president and chief executive officer[+and

9 ~~(2) At least \$1,000,000 shall be made available to support
10 efforts to manage, improve, and protect Hawaii's
11 natural environment and areas frequented by
12 visitors-]."~~

13 SECTION 3. Section 237D-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

15 "(b) Except for the revenues collected pursuant to section
16 237D-2(e), revenues collected under this chapter shall be
17 distributed in the following priority, with the excess revenues
18 to be deposited into the general fund:

19 (1) \$1,500,000 shall be allocated to the Turtle Bay
20 conservation easement special fund beginning July 1,
21 2015, for the reimbursement to the state general fund



1 of debt service on reimbursable general obligation
2 bonds, including ongoing expenses related to the
3 issuance of the bonds, the proceeds of which were used
4 to acquire the conservation easement and other real
5 property interests in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the
6 protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural
7 resources important to the State, until the bonds are
8 fully amortized;

9 (2) \$16,500,000 shall be allocated to the convention
10 center enterprise special fund established under
11 section 201B-8;

12 (3) [~~\$79,000,000~~] \$52,000,000 shall be allocated to the
13 tourism special fund established under section 201B-
14 11; provided that:

15 (A) Beginning on July 1, 2012, and ending on June 30,
16 2015, \$2,000,000 shall be expended from the
17 tourism special fund for development and
18 implementation of initiatives to take advantage
19 of expanded visa programs and increased travel
20 opportunities for international visitors to
21 Hawaii;



- 1 (B) Of the [~~\$79,000,000~~] \$52,000,000 allocated:
- 2 (i) \$1,000,000 shall be allocated for the
- 3 operation of a Hawaiian center and the
- 4 museum of Hawaiian music and dance; and
- 5 (ii) 0.5 per cent of the \$79,000,000 shall be
- 6 transferred to a sub-account in the tourism
- 7 special fund to provide funding for a safety
- 8 and security budget, in accordance with the
- 9 Hawaii tourism strategic plan 2005-2015; and
- 10 (C) Of the revenues remaining in the tourism special
- 11 fund after revenues have been deposited as
- 12 provided in this paragraph and except for any sum
- 13 authorized by the legislature for expenditure
- 14 from revenues subject to this paragraph,
- 15 beginning July 1, 2007, funds shall be deposited
- 16 into the tourism emergency special fund,
- 17 established in section 201B-10, in a manner
- 18 sufficient to maintain a fund balance of
- 19 \$5,000,000 in the tourism emergency special fund;
- 20 (4) \$103,000,000 shall be allocated as follows: Kauai
- 21 county shall receive 14.5 per cent, Hawaii county



1 shall receive 18.6 per cent, city and county of
2 Honolulu shall receive 44.1 per cent, and Maui county
3 shall receive 22.8 per cent; provided that commencing
4 with fiscal year 2018-2019, a sum that represents the
5 difference between a county public employer's annual
6 required contribution for the separate trust fund
7 established under section 87A-42 and the amount of the
8 county public employer's contributions into that trust
9 fund shall be retained by the state director of
10 finance and deposited to the credit of the county
11 public employer's annual required contribution into
12 that trust fund in each fiscal year, as provided in
13 section 87A-42, if the respective county fails to
14 remit the total amount of the county's required annual
15 contributions, as required under section 87A-43; and
16 (5) [~~\$3,000,000~~] \$30,000,000 shall be allocated to the
17 special land and development fund established under
18 section 171-19; provided that the allocation shall be
19 expended in accordance with the Hawaii tourism
20 authority strategic plan for:



- 1 (A) The protection, preservation, maintenance, and
- 2 enhancement of natural resources, including
- 3 beaches, important to the visitor industry;
- 4 (B) Planning, construction, and repair of facilities;
- 5 and
- 6 (C) Operation and maintenance costs of public lands,
- 7 including beaches, connected with enhancing the
- 8 visitor experience.

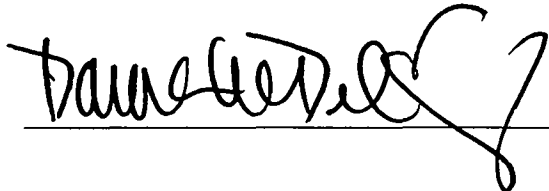
9 All transient accommodations taxes shall be paid into the
 10 state treasury each month within ten days after collection and
 11 shall be kept by the state director of finance in special
 12 accounts for distribution as provided in this subsection.

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

16 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

19

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 2287

Report Title:

DLNR; Transient Accommodations Tax; Conservation Funding

Description:

Amends the distribution of revenues collected from the transient accommodations tax to allocate a greater portion to the special land and development fund.

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

