

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DEPT. COMM. NO. 207

CLARE E. CONNORS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

DANA O. VIOLA
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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December 21, 2020

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-First State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Department of the Attorney General's Annual Report on Administratively Established Funds and Accounts, as required by section 37-52.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). In accordance with section 93-16, HRS, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <http://ag.hawaii.gov/publications/reports/reports-to-the-legislature/>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 586-1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Clare E. Connors", is written over a circular blue ink stamp.

Clare E. Connors
Attorney General

c: David Y. Ige, Governor
Josh Green, Lieutenant Governor
Legislative Reference Bureau (Attn.: Karen Mau)
Leslie H. Kondo, State Auditor
Craig K. Hirai, Director of Finance, Department of Budget and Finance
Stacey A. Aldrich, State Librarian, Hawaii State Public Library System
David Lassner, PhD., President, University of Hawaii

Enclosure

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REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVELY ESTABLISHED FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS

Pursuant to Section 37-52.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes

For Fiscal Year 2019 - 2020

Submitted to the Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021

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I. INTRODUCTION

Section 37-52.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that, except for the Judiciary, any department that administratively establishes a new fund or account must submit a report to the Legislature and, at least twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, must submit a report that shall include (1) a list of all administratively established accounts or funds and (2) all revenues, expenditures, encumbrances, and ending balances of each account or fund. The Department of the Attorney General administers the following administratively established fund and account: the National Mortgage Settlement Trust Fund and the Seized Funds – Final Disposition Pending Account.

II. NATIONAL MORTGAGE SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND

A. Overview of the National Mortgage Settlement Trust Fund

The National Mortgage Settlement Trust Fund, appropriation number T-916-N, was established pursuant to a consent judgment that was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on April 4, 2012. Hawaii, along with 48 other states and several departments and agencies of the federal government, reached a national mortgage settlement with the nation's five largest banks and mortgage servicers on April 4, 2012. Pursuant to the United States District Court's judgment approving the settlement, Hawaii received \$7,911,883 in direct settlement funds. The court's order approving the settlement requires that the Hawaii funds be expended as follows:

The monies are to be held in trust for the benefit of homeowners and others in the State of Hawaii who are, have been, or may be affected by mortgage loan proceedings. This includes, but is not limited to, those who have been subject to foreclosure, are in foreclosure, are at risk of foreclosure, have delinquent mortgage loan payments, have negative equity in their homes, have lost their homes due to foreclosure, have been unable to refinance their mortgage loans, or are leasing a dwelling affected by foreclosure. The monies shall be used for housing and financial counseling, public education, mediation, dispute resolution, and enforcement of laws and agreements protecting the rights of homeowners and lessees. The monies shall be used only for these purposes. The monies shall be deposited into an administrative trust account to be administered by the Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, who as custodian shall have sole discretion to make determinations as to the amounts and the purposes for which the monies are to be expended.

Then Attorney General, David M. Louie, convened a task force on March 22, 2012, to provide recommendations on how best to expend the funds that Hawaii received pursuant to the settlement. The task force was comprised of Senators Rosalyn Baker and David Ige; Representatives Robert Herkes and Marcus Oshiro; Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Director Kealii Lozes and Acting Deputy Director Jo Ann Uchida; Judiciary Staff Attorney Julia Verbrugge and Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution Elizabeth Kent; and Attorney General David Louie.

B. Details of Revenues and Expenditures

In accordance with recommendations from the task force and the federal court consent order, the Attorney General established the Foreclosure Assistance Program and the National Mortgage Settlement Trust Fund to expend the settlement funds.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the following significant transactions occurred in the trust fund:

REVENUES:

Estimated \$600.00 Investment Pool interest

EXPENDITURES:

\$1,530.00

The following table details the revenue and expenditures for the National Mortgage Settlement Trust Fund account from Fiscal Years 2012 through 2020

	FY 2012-2013	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
Beginning Cash Balance	\$0.00	\$1,529,243.00	\$1,324,990.75	\$1,066,320.25
Beginning Encumbrances		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Revenues	\$7,911,883.00	\$0.00	\$3,840.73	\$4,364.99
Expenditures	\$6,382,640.00	\$204,252.25	\$262,511.23	\$958,785.00
Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$1,529,243.00	\$1,324,990.75	\$1,066,320.25	\$111,900.24

	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019	FY 2019-2020
Beginning Cash Balance	\$111,900.24	\$99,411.76	\$65,363.89 ¹	\$66,015.06
Beginning Encumbrances	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Revenues	\$824.35	\$599.48	\$651.17	Est. \$600.00
Expenditures	\$13,312.83	\$34,647.00	\$0.00	\$1,530.00
Transfers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$99,411.76	\$65,364.24	\$66,015.06	\$64,485.06

Revenue by Source Code:

Source Code	Description	Revenue
0288	INVESTMENT POOL ACCOUNT	Est. \$600.00
787	MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS	\$0.00
1492	SALE OF SERVICES – UTILITIES	\$0.00
	Total Revenue	Est. \$600.00

¹ The Beginning Cash Balance of \$65,363.89 for FY-2018-2019 appears to differ by \$.35 from the Ending Cash Balance of FY 2017-2018, which de minimus amount will be reviewed.

Expenditure by Object Code:

Object Code	Description	Expenditure
6800	JUDGMENTS and CLAIMS	\$0.00
7215	OTHER CURRENT EXPENSES	\$1530.00
	Total Expenditure	\$1530.00

III. SEIZED FUNDS – FINAL DISPOSITION PENDING ACCOUNT

**A. Overview of the Seized Funds – Final Disposition Pending Account:
FY 2019-2020**

In 1988, the Legislature enacted chapter 712A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Hawaii Omnibus Criminal Forfeiture Act. Chapter 712A provides for the forfeiture of property used or acquired in connection with the commission of certain criminal offenses and for the distribution of the property, or its proceeds, to law enforcement agencies for law enforcement purposes. A detailed history and explanation of the program is provided in the Annual Report of Proceedings under the Hawaii Omnibus Criminal Forfeiture Act submitted contemporaneously with this report.

The Seized Funds – Final Disposition Pending Account, account number T-906, was administratively established in 1988 as a “holding” account. The seized currency can be deposited into the T-906 account pending the outcome of the forfeiture proceedings. The currency seized for administrative or judicial forfeiture may be ordered returned to a claimant, forfeited to the State, or divided between the claimant and the State pursuant to a judicial or administrative settlement agreement. This fund receives no actual revenue because it operates as a trust account. Disbursements from the fund include amounts returned to a claimant if the seized funds are not forfeited. If the seized funds are ordered forfeited, the funds are transferred to the Criminal Forfeiture Fund, which is discussed more fully in the Annual Report of Proceedings under the Hawaii Omnibus Criminal Forfeiture Act.

The amounts in the Seized Funds – Final Disposition Pending Account may not reflect the total seized currency for a Fiscal Year. This is primarily due to cases where petitions are filed, but the deposits into the T-906 account related to the filed petitions are not completed within the same fiscal year. New petition deposit transaction times can often span from three to six months, or longer if a petition is refiled. Other reasons for delays may include, but are not limited to, evidentiary requirements in a criminal case, currency handling procedures within the seizing agencies, and other additional processing times required by seizing agencies and the Attorney General's Fiscal Offices to finalize a currency transaction in and out of the T-906 account.

B. Transactions

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the following significant transactions occurred in the Seized Funds – Final Disposition Pending Account:

TRANSFERS INTO ACCOUNT:

Hawaii County Police Department	\$ 120,534.00
Honolulu Police Department	\$ 37,195.00
Kauai County Police Department	\$ 40,974.00
Maui County Police Department	\$ 129,360.41
Interest payments	<u>\$ 15,738.07</u>
Total Transfers In	<u>\$ 343,801.48</u>

TRANSFERS OUT OF ACCOUNT:

Transfers to the Criminal Forfeiture Fund	\$ 641,468.20
Return to Honolulu Police Department (No petition filed)	\$ 21,828.00
Returned as Ordered to the Maui Police Department (for return to interested parties)	<u>\$ 5,133.00</u>
Total Transfers Out	<u>\$ 668,429.20</u>