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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents of and  
2 visitors to the State often have difficulty locating the  
3 appropriate state or county application processes when they wish  
4 to conduct or participate in recreational activity in the State,  
5 including placing a reservation for a state park camping permit  
6 or obtaining a license to visit state- or county-owned parks.  
7 Commercial operators desiring to do business in the State are  
8 also often confused about the required authorizations, licenses,  
9 and permits necessary to operate in areas administered by the  
10 State or counties, which can lead to a variety of illegal and  
11 unauthorized commercial offerings.

12           The legislature further finds that a mobile application  
13 that consolidates all of the forms and application processes  
14 required to conduct recreational and commercial activities in  
15 the State will streamline the application processes and greatly  
16 benefit Hawaii's residents, visitors, and commercial operators.  
17 The legislature notes that, for this mobile application to be



1 used by people with disabilities and residents and visitors  
2 whose first language may not be English, the mobile application  
3 must be accessible to people with disabilities and available in  
4 multiple languages.

5 The legislature also finds that Act 182, Session Laws of  
6 Hawaii 2023 (Act 182), requires the department of land and  
7 natural resources to develop and publish a website and mobile  
8 application for a permit, license, or reservation, and to  
9 collect fees, for recreational or commercial activities under  
10 the jurisdiction of the department. It is the intent of the  
11 legislature to integrate the mobile application created by Act  
12 182 with the new application required by this Act to create a  
13 uniform mobile application for residents and visitors of the  
14 State.

15 The purpose of this Act is to:

16 (1) Require the Hawaii tourism authority to develop and  
17 publish, through a contract with a third party, a  
18 mobile application that includes all online  
19 application processes, including the collection of any  
20 applicable reservation fees, to acquire a reservation  
21 to conduct recreational and commercial activities in



- 1 the State that are regulated by or under the
- 2 jurisdiction of a state or county agency;
- 3 (2) Establish a tourism enterprise fund;
- 4 (3) Require the Hawaii tourism authority to issue a
- 5 request for proposals to contract for the development
- 6 and publishing of the mobile application; and
- 7 (4) Appropriate funds for the development and publication
- 8 of the mobile application, including the hiring of a
- 9 mobile manager.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 11 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
 12 designated and to read as follows:

13 **"§201B-A Mobile application; reservations; recreational**  
 14 **and commercial activities.** (a) The authority shall develop,  
 15 publish, and be responsible for the maintenance of a mobile  
 16 application, through a contract with a third party, that  
 17 includes all online application processes to acquire a permit,  
 18 license, or reservation needed to conduct recreational and  
 19 commercial activities in the State that are regulated by or  
 20 under the jurisdiction of a state or county agency, including  
 21 but not limited to:



1       (1) Permits for a campsite, cabin, or pavilion;  
2       (2) Reservations to access certain state parks;  
3       (3) Licenses to visit a state- or county-owned park,  
4       beach, forest, hiking trail, or other natural area on  
5       state or county land, as designated by rule by the  
6       board of land and natural resources or appropriate  
7       county agency; and

8       (4) Licenses and permits for any other authorized  
9       recreational and commercial activities regulated by a  
10       state or county agency.

11       (b) The mobile application required under subsection (a)  
12       shall be accessible to people with disabilities and available in  
13       multiple languages, including but not limited to:

14       (1) The official languages of the State;  
15       (2) Traditional and simplified Chinese;  
16       (3) Japanese;  
17       (4) Korean;  
18       (5) Tagalog; and

19       (6) Recommendations of the:  
20       (A) Office of language access; and  
21       (B) Authority.



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2 (c) The mobile application required under subsection (a)  
3 shall include a visitor satisfaction survey developed by the  
4 authority to survey visitors departing the State.

5 (d) The mobile application required under subsection (a)  
6 shall include a payment system to collect any fees associated  
7 with applying for a permit, license, or reservation through the  
8 mobile application. The fees shall be deposited into the  
9 appropriate department or county subaccount within the tourism  
10 enterprise fund under section 201B-B based on the department or  
11 county to whom the fee was paid to acquire a permit, license, or  
12 reservation. The authority and counties shall sign memorandums  
13 of agreement allowing for the collection of fees associated with  
14 applying for a county permit, license, or reservation through  
15 the mobile application, to be disbursed to the counties on a  
16 quarterly basis pursuant to section 201B-B(c).

17 **\$201B-B Tourism enterprise fund.** (a) There is  
18 established outside the state treasury a tourism enterprise fund  
19 to be administered by the board, into which shall be deposited  
20 the fees collected pursuant to section 201B-A(d) and all  
21 investment earnings credited to the fund; provided that the fees



1 shall be deposited into the appropriate department or county  
2 subaccount established pursuant to subsection (b).

3 (b) The board shall establish separate subaccounts within  
4 the tourism enterprise fund for each department and county that  
5 hosts a permit, license, or reservation application on the  
6 mobile application established pursuant to section 201B-A.

7 (c) Moneys in the tourism enterprise fund shall be  
8 disbursed to the appropriate state or county agency from the  
9 tourism enterprise fund on a quarterly basis."

10 SECTION 3. (a) Pursuant to chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised  
11 Statutes, the Hawaii tourism authority shall issue a request for  
12 proposals and contract for the development and publication of  
13 the mobile application required pursuant to section 201B-A,  
14 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

15 (b) To develop the mobile application, the selected vendor  
16 shall:

17 (1) Be granted access to the application programming  
18 interface of any existing state or county reservation  
19 systems developed to access state or county lands and  
20 other resources, including the department of land and  
21 natural resource's website and mobile application



1 developed pursuant to Act 182, Session Laws of Hawaii  
 2 2023, to integrate into the mobile application; and  
 3 (2) Coordinate with the relevant state and county agencies  
 4 to develop the payment system for the collection of  
 5 fees required pursuant to section 201B-A(d), Hawaii  
 6 Revised Statutes.

7 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
 10 the Hawaii tourism authority to issue a request for proposals  
 11 and contract for the development and publication of a mobile  
 12 application pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including for the  
 13 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) manager  
 14 position to manage the mobile application, to be hired by the  
 15 board of directors of the Hawaii tourism authority.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
 17 tourism authority for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
 19 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
 20 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
 21 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state



1 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
2 exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. In addition, the  
3 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
4 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
5 exceeded by \$                    or                    per cent. The combined total  
6 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
7 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
8 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
9 \$                    or                    per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
10 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 11        (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
12                serve the public interest; and  
13        (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
14                addressed by this Act.

15        SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section  
16 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
17 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
18 the new sections in this Act.

19        SECTION 7. New statutory material is underscored.





1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Tourism Authority; Recreational Activities; Commercial Activities; Mobile Application; Tourism Enterprise Fund; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority to develop and publish, through a contract with a third party, a mobile application that includes all online application processes, including the collection of any applicable reservation fees, to acquire a reservation to conduct recreational and commercial activities in the State that are regulated by or under the jurisdiction of a state or county agency. Requires the Hawaii Tourism Authority to issue a request for proposals and contract for the development and publishing of the mobile application. Establishes a tourism enterprise fund. Appropriates funds for the development and publication of the mobile application, including the hiring of a mobile manager. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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