
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE CAPITOL TOURS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii state
2 capitol is a public building rich with history and significance.
3 Completed in 1969, the capitol building was designed as a modern
4 and functional place of democracy imbued with deep meaning,
5 beauty, and dignity. Meant to recall the birth of the islands
6 from the sea, the unique design of the building offers insight
7 into the State's singular history, shared values, and public
8 priorities.

9 The legislature also finds that maintaining accessibility
10 to the capitol building and its history for Hawaii's residents,
11 students, and visitors is a meaningful public service that
12 provides visitors to the building with a profound appreciation
13 for the State and the democratic process. The establishment of
14 a state capitol tour program would greatly enhance this service.

15 The office of the governor of the State of Hawaii
16 previously coordinated and conducted tours of the capitol.
17 However, the position in the governor's office responsible for



1 these tours has been vacant for several years. Although there
2 are options for visitors to take virtual or self-guided tours,
3 it would be beneficial to have permanent staff tasked with
4 coordinating and conducting guided tours and providing
5 information about the state capitol for visitors and school
6 groups. Additionally, the inclusion of volunteer docents,
7 similar to those in place at the Iolani Palace, Honolulu Zoo,
8 and Waikiki Aquarium, would be helpful in supporting a state
9 capitol tour program.

10 The purpose of this Act is to require the governor to
11 administer and facilitate a state capitol tour program,
12 utilizing volunteer docents, to conduct walking tours of the
13 state capitol building.

14 SECTION 2. The governor of the State of Hawaii shall
15 administer and facilitate a state capitol tour program for
16 walking tours and dissemination of information regarding the
17 Hawaii state capitol building. The program shall be developed
18 in consultation with the legislative reference bureau's public
19 access room, and consist of tours, conducted by unpaid volunteer
20 docents, throughout areas of the building and grounds that can
21 safely accommodate tour participants.



1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure
11 ceiling are that:

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

16 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
19 one permanent full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position and tour
20 program pursuant to this Act.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of the
2 governor for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Governor; State Capitol Guided Tours; Expenditure Ceiling;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Governor to implement a State Capitol Tour Program for volunteer docents to conduct tours of the capitol building and grounds. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. Makes an appropriation. Takes effect 7/1/2112.
(SD1)

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