

**ACT 331**

S.B. NO. 832

A Bill for an Act Relating to Appropriations.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. In accordance with Section 9 of Article VII of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the appropriations contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 1989-1990 to be exceeded by \$2,800,000 or 0.12 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund ex-

penditure ceiling are that the appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the needs provided for by this Act.

## PART I

SECTION 2. The legislature finds that an informed and active citizenry is the most dynamic force of democracy. Good government is impossible unless people are allowed the greatest opportunities to voice their concerns and participate in the decision-making process.

Of the three branches of government, the legislature relies most heavily on direct public input. With the growth in complexity and volume of legislation and the hectic pace of the brief legislative session, it is imperative that the legislature provide timely information to the public and make every effort to encourage citizen participation.

As the legislature prepares to temporarily relocate to less centralized quarters while the state capitol is closed for asbestos abatement, an urgent need has been created for immediate action on issues of public access and participation.

In spite of the State's excellent technological infrastructure, recent criticism indicates that full public participation in the legislative process is being precluded because information about bills, resolutions, hearing dates, and other relevant data, is not readily accessible to the general public. The legislature is concerned because government agencies exist to aid the people in the formation and conduct of public policy. Opening up government processes to public scrutiny and participation is the most viable and reasonable method of protecting democracy and the public interest.

Technology and telecommunications are the means by which improved public access and participation in the legislative process will become a reality. Now is the time for the state legislature to act: to forge ahead as a pioneer in the Age of Information.

The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds for an interim legislative access project to increase public access by 1990.

SECTION 3. The committees on legislative management for both houses of the legislature and any other committees designated by the respective leaderships of the house of representatives or the senate, shall participate in an interim legislative access project to:

- (1) Conduct a study of the ways in which legislatures in the other forty-nine states provide public access to the legislative process and legislative data by electronic means, including but not limited to: dial-in telephone access to legislative bill status systems; automated data bases for bills, resolutions, committee reports, public hearings, and session laws; as well as the extent to which these states utilize electronic mail, voice communications systems, facsimile and image processing systems, local area networks, teleconferencing, and other means of communication;
- (2) Conduct a study of the means by which legislatures in the other forty-nine states administer automated systems in the legislative process, including but not limited to internal computerized legislative information services;
- (3) Make recommendations for methods of increasing and enhancing public access to the legislative process, incorporating ideas generated through the initial study of other states' systems, and including further evaluations and studies of their automated systems.

The committees shall report their findings and recommendations to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1990.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1989-1990, to be allocated as follows:

House of Representatives	\$750,000
Senate	\$750,000

The moneys shall be used to provide funding for the legislature to provide public access to bills, committee reports, and public hearing notices, and any other features deemed appropriate to enhance public access and participation in the 1990 legislative session.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the legislature for the purposes of this Act.

## PART II

SECTION 5. The legislature finds that advances in telecommunications and information technology present significant opportunities for the State, especially for the legislative branch of government, to increase the overall efficiency of the legislature and to develop and promote better public access to this data. The present telecommunication infrastructure of the State provides an exciting array of services among state governmental agencies, including video conference centers, voice communication systems, facsimile and image processing systems, local area networks, microwave communication, satellite uplink, and fiber optic technology.

The legislature finds that through its actions in 1988, the infrastructure for positioning Hawaii in the ages of information and the Pacific has been established. The infrastructure of local information providers has been developed and international telecommunications linkages will be established between Hawaii and countries in the Pacific Rim.

Although the infrastructure has been established, the legislature finds that its continued leadership and guidance is needed in 1989 to:

- (1) Encourage public and consumer education and awareness of telecommunications and information services and their importance to the social and economic future of the State of Hawaii;
- (2) Promote the development of information services by the public sector; and
- (3) Begin to establish the "critical mass" of users to access public and private information services.

The legislature finds that resources must be committed to enable the development of public access terminals, especially in the schools and libraries and that there are many government information services that should be made accessible to the public in order to provide the basis of "magnet" services that will foster the development of private information providers. The legislature further anticipates that it will focus in 1990 on the development of private information providers.

SECTION 6. The department of budget and finance shall initiate and develop pilot projects using videotex and other information technology. The department of budget and finance shall solicit proposals from state agencies for information services. A minimum of three projects shall be selected based on the following:

- (1) Potential public demand for access to the information;
- (2) Potential of the project to increase understanding of the importance of telecommunications to the economic and social development of Hawaii; and

- (3) Potential to demonstrate the impact of telecommunications and information services on a broad cross-section of residents.

The department of budget and finance shall provide assistance in implementing the selected projects and shall report its findings and recommendations at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1990.

SECTION 7. The department of budget and finance shall develop a plan to establish state information services that are accessible to the general public through the State's information network and gateway service. The plan shall include but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Identification of existing and potential opportunities for agencies to provide information services to the public through the information network;
- (2) Analysis of the potential users and demand for the service;
- (3) Estimation of the one-time and recurring costs required to develop and support the information service;
- (4) Educational program to inform government agencies about the potential uses and benefits of the information network; and
- (5) Implementation plan and timetable for the service to be developed.

In developing the plan, the department of budget and finance shall consult with representatives from various state agencies, including the department of education and the public libraries.

The department of budget and finance shall report its findings and recommendations with regard to its plan to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1990.

SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1989-1990, and the sum of \$160,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1990-1991, for the state library system to offer library information and to purchase and operate public terminals, and provide services to enable the public access to public information through the state information network.

SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1989-1990, for the the pilot videotex information service projects and the preparation of the plan to establish greater public access to state government information.

SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal biennium 1989-1991, for the high technology development corporation of the department of business and economic development to hold a conference involving interested members of the community and information industries, public agencies, the University of Hawaii, and experts in the field.

SECTION 11. The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department of budget and finance for the purposes of this part.

SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1989.

(Approved June 15, 1989.)