

ACT 357

H.B. NO. 79

A Bill for an Act Relating to Tourism.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's visitor count is expected to increase at an annual rate of 2.5 per cent through the year 2010 and that 11.6 million tourists are expected to visit Hawaii in that year alone. At the same time, the State's resident population is projected to increase at an annual rate of 1.2 per cent to reach a total resident population of 1.4 million by the year 2010. Because of the increases in both the visitor and resident populations, the State's infrastructure and social and economic systems will be subject to great strain in a state where

very large numbers of people will compete for scarce resources. The State's utilities, land use, zoning, and other systems as well as the cultural, environmental, safety, and other aspects of life in Hawaii may be endangered. The legislature further finds that, in the absence of any plan to deal with this projected growth, it is necessary to take immediate action to determine if the State's carrying capacity can absorb this growth.

The purpose of this Act is to initiate a study of the carrying capacity of the State to the year 2010 in light of visitor and resident population projections.

SECTION 2. The office of state planning shall develop general methodology and conduct a limited site-specific study to test the methodology, which may be contracted to a private entity, to determine the State's carrying capacity to the year 2010 in light of the projections of increases in both visitor and resident populations with particular attention to the capacities and growth on the neighbor islands. The study may include, but not be limited to:

- (1) Infrastructure demand, including utilities, land use, and zoning;
- (2) Social issues;
- (3) Economic issues;
- (4) Cultural issues;
- (5) Environmental issues; and
- (6) Safety issues.

SECTION 3. The office of state planning shall submit its findings and recommendations to the legislature at least twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1990.

SECTION 4. 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 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 1989-1990 to be exceeded by \$75,000, or 0.0032 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriation made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1989-90, to carry out the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the office of state planning.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1989.

(Approved June 19, 1989.)