

ACT 358

H.B. NO. 81

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Development of Tourism.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the growing economic and strategic importance of the Pacific region and Hawaii's potential role as a leader in the Pacific have emphasized the need for increased interaction between Hawaii and the countries of the Pacific Basin and Asia. The State's efforts to expand its regional leadership and to diversify and strengthen its economic base have included initiatives such as

the promotion of Hawaii as an international consulting, training, and research center to market Hawaii's expertise in such areas as natural resource-based industries, business, and tourism.

The 1988 governor's congress on Hawaii's international role emphasized Hawaii's expertise in tourism, based on the State's well-developed visitor industry and the existence of institutions of higher education which provide tourism-related education, training, and research services. The increasing importance of tourism to the Asia-Pacific region is indicated by visitor arrival totals which show that East Asia and the Pacific have emerged as the second largest region in the world receiving international tourists. Worldwide, tourism is an important source of income, foreign exchange, and employment for nearly all countries, accounting for one-fourth of the world trade in services and over five per cent of the total value of world exports. Tourism is the largest of the service industries and is expected to become even more important in the future. The legislature believes Hawaii should take advantage of these trends in order to diversify its own economic base as a business center to the region.

The purpose of this Act is to establish an international tourism consulting center and clearinghouse within the department of business and economic development for administrative purposes to promote, assist, plan, and coordinate the provision of tourism-related consulting, training, and research services by private consultants, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions in Hawaii throughout the Pacific and Asian region.

SECTION 2. 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 \$135,000, or 0.0058 per cent. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the appropriations made in this Act are necessary to serve the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this Act.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$135,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1989-90, and \$98,600, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1990-91, to establish an international tourism consulting center and clearinghouse, including the hiring of necessary staff. The center's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, providing assistance in the marketing and promotion of Hawaii's professional skills and expertise in tourism, coordinating the resources of Hawaii's educational institutions in providing tourism-related research and training services to the Pacific and Asian region, and developing long-range plans to preserve and maintain the State's expertise and leadership role in international tourism development. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of business and economic development for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1989.

(Approved June 19, 1989.)