

A Bill for an Act Making an Appropriation for the Ala Moana Gateway Improvement Project.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that present world and national events seriously threaten the State's economy. These events have already resulted in lower hotel occupancies and reduced bookings, and caused the cancellation of tours to Hawaii. Some Hawaii hotels have recently announced the possibility of room closures and employee layoffs.

New and attractive Pacific basin, Asian, and European visitor destinations have heightened worldwide competition for tourist-related dollars, and further competition will develop throughout the next five to ten years as additional visitor destinations open up.

Positive steps taken today will help revitalize Hawaii's travel industry and allow the State to take advantage of positive changes in world and national events when they occur.

The enhancement of Waikiki is one step that should be continued since Waikiki is still the major focal point of Hawaii. The private sector spent approximately \$500,000,000 to give Waikiki a much-needed face-lift. The public sector contributed several million dollars to improve Kalakaua and Kuhio avenues, to stabilize and widen Waikiki beach, to clean up the Ala Wai canal, and to upgrade Waikiki's parks, yet nothing has been done to enhance the gateways to Waikiki.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate moneys for the planning and design of improvements to the Ala Moana gateway to Waikiki.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,264,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1991-1992, for plans and designs for the Ala Moana gateway improvement project.

SECTION 3. The Ala Moana gateway improvement project, aimed at improving and enhancing the western Waikiki gateway, shall consist of improvements to Ala Moana boulevard. The two components of the project shall include:

- (1) Beautification and landscaping of the pedestrian areas of Ala Moana boulevard between Atkinson boulevard and Kalakaua avenue, enlarging the sidewalk area by removing a portion of the median, adding a landscaped planter between the boulevard and the widened sidewalk, shade trees, lower-level landscaping, sidewalk furniture and other pedestrian amenities, and replacing the existing median with a pedestrian barrier to deter jaywalking, which may consist of a lava rock wall; and
- (2) The addition of a traffic lane in the mauka direction from three-hundred feet makai of Kalia road to Kalakaua avenue, providing a right-turn-only lane into Kalia road and another lane between Kalia road and Kalakaua avenue.

SECTION 4. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of transportation for the purposes of this Act; provided that the department shall expend the moneys in consultation with the Waikiki Improvement Association.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1991.

(Approved June 26, 1991.)