

ACT 163

S.B. NO. 3292

A Bill for an Act Relating to Airport Taxi Service.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's airport system plays a critical role in the State's visitor-based economy by facilitating the movement of passengers to and from the State and between islands. As the main point of entry to Hawaii, the State's airports are the first places to which visitors are exposed, and present the first opportunity to convey a strong impression of Hawaii's assets to visitors.

An important aspect of any efficient airport operation is a well-managed, reasonably-priced ground transportation system that includes a sound plan for taxicab services. If visitors have favorable impressions of airport-based taxis, they will return to visit again, thereby helping to keep transportation costs down in the long run. Taxis and taxicab drivers are among the first people in Hawaii to which first-time visitors are exposed. Because of this, it is essential that drivers provide top-quality service by using clean, new vehicles; treating visitors courteously; and demonstrating the Aloha Spirit. The type of service received upon first arriving in Hawaii is crucial to a visitor's decision to return in the future.

The legislature further finds that a sound, comprehensive master plan would give taxi drivers the necessary incentives to enhance taxi service, thereby improving the Hawaiian experience for out-of-state visitors, and increasing the percentage of returning visitors.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the department of transportation to develop a master plan that will help create an economical and efficient airport taxi system with resulting benefits for taxi customers, taxi operators, and Hawaii's visitor-based economy.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the airport revenue fund of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 1994-1995, for the development of a master plan for the economical and efficient management of airport taxicab service. This plan shall be developed by the department of transportation as follows:

- (1) The department of transportation shall conduct a thorough review of airport taxi service for its entire statewide system of airports and formulate a management plan that addresses the issues set forth in this Act;
- (2) Airport taxi permit fees, if any, shall be calculated based upon a rational analysis of the costs to operate and administer the airport taxi system and shall not exceed those costs;
- (3) The department shall consult with and involve members of the local taxi industry as well as technical experts in the field at various strategic points during the development of the plan; and
- (4) The department shall submit a report on a proposed master plan to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1995.

SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of transportation. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance of any appropriation made by this Act as of the close of business on June 30, 1995 shall lapse into the airport revenue fund.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

(Approved June 9, 1994.)