

ACT 109

H.B. NO. 3293

A Bill for an Act Relating to Public Lands.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, seeks to assure the effective and efficient use of public lands for both public and approved private purposes, in order to promote the social, environmental, and economic well-being of Hawaii's people. Over the years, however, some maintain that certain provisions of this chapter no longer fully address the changing needs of the community. For example, some are concerned that lease rents have increased tremendously over the past few years, especially for agricultural leases, thereby creating added pressures on lessees. Others are concerned about inconsistencies in the manner in which lease rents are determined. There is also some overall concern that the provisions of this chapter have become too broad and open to wide interpretation.

The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of land and natural resources to conduct a comprehensive review of the provisions of chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in order to address various problems faced by lessees of state lands.

SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources shall conduct public hearings in each county of the State to determine the concerns and problems

faced by all lessees under chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The department shall:

- (1) Submit a status report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1997, and a final report, including findings, recommendations, as well as proposed implementing legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 1998; and
- (2) Make appropriate amendments to administrative rules to address the problems and concerns identified.

The department may hire a consultant to assist in accomplishing the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the special land and development fund the sum of \$150,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 1996-1997 to accomplish the purposes of this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of land and natural resources.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 1996.

(Approved June 12, 1996.)