

**ACT 229**

H.B. NO. 44

A Bill for an Act Relating to State Bonds.

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of findings with respect to the general obligation bonds authorized by this Act. Pursuant to the clause in article VII, section 13 of the state constitution, which states: "Effective July 1, 1980, the legislature shall include a declaration of findings in every general law authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds that the total amount of principal and interest, estimated for such bonds and for all bonds authorized and unissued and calculated for all bonds issued and outstanding, will not cause the debt limit to be exceeded at the time of issuance," the legislature finds and declares as follows:

- (1) Limitation on general obligation debt. The debt limit of the State is set forth in article VII, section 13 of the state constitution, which states in part: "General obligation bonds may be issued by the State; provided that such bonds at the time of issuance would not cause the total amount of principal and interest payable in the current or any future fiscal year, whichever is higher, on such bonds and on all outstanding general obligation bonds to exceed: a sum equal to twenty percent of the average of the general fund revenues of the State in the three fiscal years immediately preceding such issuance until June 30, 1982; and thereafter, a sum equal to eighteen and one-half per cent of the average of the general fund revenues of the State in the three fiscal years immediately preceding such issuance." Article VII, section 13, also provides that in determining the power of the State to issue general obligation bonds, certain bonds are excludable, including "reimbursable general obligation bonds issued for a public undertaking, improvement or system but only to the extent that reimbursements to the general fund are in fact made from the net revenue, or net user tax receipts, or combination of both, as determined for the immediately preceding fiscal year" and bonds constituting instruments of indebtedness under which the State incurs a contingent liability as a guarantor, but only to the extent the principal amount of such bonds does not exceed seven per cent of the principal amount of outstanding general obligation bonds not otherwise excluded under said article VII, section 13.
- (2) Actual and estimated debt limits. The limit on principal and interest of general obligation bonds issued by the State, actual for fiscal year 1995-1996 and estimated for each fiscal year from 1996-1997 to 1998-1999, is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Net General Fund Revenues	Debt Limit
1992-1993	\$2,801,180,523	
1993-1994	3,054,307,502	
1994-1995	2,932,879,814	
1995-1996	2,963,107,000	\$541,949,350
1996-1997	3,078,278,000	551,934,816
1997-1998	3,226,058,000	553,412,997
1998-1999	(Not Applicable)	571,492,318

For fiscal years 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, and 1998-1999 respectively, the debt limit is derived by multiplying the average of the net general fund revenues for the three preceding fiscal years by eighteen and one-half per cent. The net general fund revenues for fiscal years 1992-1993, 1993-1994, and 1994-1995 are actual, as certified by the director of finance in the Statement of the Debt Limit of the State of Hawaii as of July 1, 1995, dated November 29, 1995. The net general fund revenues for fiscal years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998 are estimates, based on general fund revenue estimates made as of March 15, 1996, by the council on revenues, the body assigned by article VII, section 7 of the state constitution, to make such estimates, and based on estimates made by the department of budget and finance of those receipts which cannot be included as general fund revenues for the purpose of calculating the debt limit, all of which estimates the legislature finds to be reasonable.

- (3) Principal and interest on outstanding bonds applicable to the debt limit. (A) According to the department of budget and finance, the total amount of principal and interest on outstanding general obligation bonds, after the exclusions permitted by article VII, section 13 of the state constitution, for determining the power of the State to issue general obligation bonds within the debt limit as of April 1, 1996, is as follows for fiscal year 1996-1997 to fiscal year 2002-2003:

Fiscal Year	Principal And Interest
1996-1997	\$384,326,661
1997-1998	371,191,347
1998-1999	354,289,172
1999-2000	338,324,888
2000-2001	288,622,841
2001-2002	271,828,371
2002-2003	260,058,058

The department of budget and finance further reports that the amount of principal and interest on outstanding bonds applicable to the debt limit generally continues to decline each year from fiscal year 2003-2004 to fiscal year 2015-2016 when the final installment of \$11,547,456 shall be due and payable. (B) The department of budget and finance further reports that the outstanding principal amount of bonds constituting instruments of indebtedness under which the State may incur a contingent liability as a guarantor is \$152,000,000, all or part of which is excludable in determining the power of the State to issue general obligation bonds, pursuant to article VII, section 13 of the state constitution.

- (4) Amount of authorized and unissued general obligation bonds and guaranties and proposed bonds and guaranties. (A) As calculated from the state comptroller's bond fund report as of February 29, 1996, adjusted for (1) the issuance of \$100,000,000 in general obligation bonds of 1996, Series CL, (2) appropriations to be funded by general obligation bonds as provided in Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 1995 (General Appropriations Act of 1995), to be expended in fiscal year 1996-1997, (3) appropriations to be funded by general obligation bonds as provided in Act 9, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1995 (Relating to Education), to be expended in fiscal year 1996-1997, (4) appropriations to be funded by general obligation bonds as provided in Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1995 (Relating to Hawaiian Home Lands), to be expended in fiscal year 1996-1997, (5) appropriations to be funded by reimbursable general obligation bonds as provided in Act 17, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1995 (Relating to the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund), to be expended in fiscal year 1996-1997, (6) lapses identified in letters dated March 4, 1996 from the director of finance to the chairperson of the senate committee on ways and means and to the chairperson of the house committee on finance amounting to \$4,283,829, (7) lapses identified in letters dated March 22, 1996, from the governor to the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives amounting to \$4,482,791, (8) lapses identified in letters dated April 19, 1996, from the governor to the chairperson of the senate committee on ways and means and to the chairperson of the house committee on finance amounting to \$106,130, (9) lapses as

provided in House Bill No. 3650, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1<sup>1</sup> (the Judiciary Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1996) amounting to \$812,650, and (10) lapses as provided in House Bill No. 2800, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1<sup>2</sup> (the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1996) amounting to \$103,507,332, the total amount of authorized but unissued general obligation bonds is \$1,143,779,975. The total amount of general obligation bonds authorized by this Act is \$134,282,000. The total amount of general obligation bonds previously authorized and unissued and the general obligation bonds authorized by this Act is \$1,278,061,975. (B) As reported by the department of budget and finance, the outstanding principal amount of bonds constituting instruments of indebtedness under which the State may incur a contingent liability as a guarantor is \$152,000,000, all or part of which is excludable in determining the power of the State to issue general obligation bonds, pursuant to article VII, section 13 of the state constitution. The additional amount of guaranties authorized by House Bill No. 3453, H.D. 1<sup>3</sup> (Relating To The Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 As Amended) is \$29,000,000 and is herein validated. The total amount of guaranties previously authorized and guaranties validated by this Act is \$181,000,000.

- (5) Proposed general obligation bond issuance. As reported herein for fiscal years 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, and 1998-1999, the State proposes to issue \$200,000,000 during the remainder of fiscal year 1995-1996, \$233,000,000 during the first half of fiscal year 1996-1997, \$449,000,000 during the second half of fiscal year 1996-1997 and \$100,000,000 semiannually in each of fiscal years 1997-1998 through 1998-1999. It has been the practice of the State to issue twenty-year serial bonds with principal repayments beginning the third year, the bonds maturing in substantially equal installments of principal, and interest payments commencing six months from the date of issuance and being paid semiannually thereafter. It is assumed that this practice will continue to be applied to the bonds which are proposed to be issued.
- (6) Sufficiency of proposed general obligation bond issuance to meet the requirements of authorized and unissued bonds, as adjusted, and bonds authorized by this Act. From the schedule reported in paragraph (5), the total amount of general obligation bonds which the State proposes to issue during the fiscal years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998 is \$1,082,000,000. An additional \$200,000,000 is proposed to be issued in fiscal year 1998-1999. The total amount of \$1,082,000,000 which is proposed to be issued through fiscal year 1997-1998 is sufficient to meet the requirements of the authorized and unissued bonds, as adjusted, and the bonds authorized by this Act, the total amount of which is \$1,278,061,975, as reported in paragraph (4), except for \$196,061,975. It is assumed that the appropriations to which an additional \$196,061,975 in bond issuance needs to be applied will have been encumbered as of June 30, 1998. The \$200,000,000 which is proposed to be issued in fiscal year 1998-1999 will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the June 30, 1998 encumbrances in the amount of \$196,061,975. The amount of assumed encumbrances as of June 30, 1998, is reasonable and conservative, based upon an inspection of June 30 encumbrances of the general obligation bond fund as reported by the state comptroller. Thus, taking into account the amount of authorized and unissued bonds, as adjusted, and the bonds autho-

rized by this Act versus the amount of bonds which is proposed to be issued by June 30, 1998, and the amount of June 30, 1998 encumbrances versus the amount of bonds which is proposed to be issued in fiscal year 1998-1999, the legislature finds that in the aggregate, the amount of bonds which is proposed to be issued is sufficient to meet the requirements of all authorized and unissued bonds and the bonds authorized by this Act.

- (7) Bonds excludable in determining the power of the State to issue bonds. As noted in paragraph (1), certain bonds are excludable in determining the power of the State to issue general obligation bonds. (A) General obligation reimbursable bonds can be excluded under certain conditions. It is not possible to make a conclusive determination as to the amount of reimbursable bonds which are excludable from the amount of each proposed bond issue because:
- (i) It is not known exactly when projects for which reimbursable bonds have been authorized in prior acts and in this Act will be implemented and will require the application of proceeds from a particular bond issue; and
  - (ii) Not all reimbursable general obligation bonds may qualify for exclusion.

However, the legislature notes that with respect to the principal and interest on outstanding general obligation bonds, according to the department of budget and finance, the average proportion of principal and interest which is excludable each year from the calculation against the debt limit is 7.4 per cent for the ten years from fiscal year 1996-1997 to fiscal year 2005-2006. For the purpose of this declaration, the assumption is made that five per cent of each bond issue will be excludable from the debt limit, an assumption which the legislature finds to be reasonable and conservative. (B) Bonds constituting instruments of indebtedness under which the State incurs a contingent liability as a guarantor can be excluded but only to the extent the principal amount of such guaranties does not exceed seven per cent of the principal amount of outstanding general obligation bonds not otherwise excluded under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (7) and provided that the State shall establish and maintain a reserve in an amount in reasonable proportion to the outstanding loans guaranteed by the State as provided by law. According to the department of budget and finance and the assumptions presented herein, the total principal amount of outstanding general obligation bonds and general obligation bonds proposed to be issued, which are not otherwise excluded under article VII, section 13 of the state constitution, for the fiscal years 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998 and 1998-1999 are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Total Amount Of General Obligation Bonds Not Otherwise Excluded By Article VII, Section 13 Of The State Constitution
1995-1996	\$2,878,170,545
1996-1997	3,281,700,976
1997-1998	3,223,724,034
1998-1999	3,165,436,529

Based on the foregoing and based on the assumption that the full amount of a guaranty is immediately due and payable when such guaranty changes from a contingent liability to an actual liability, the aggregate principal amount of the portion of the outstanding guaranties and the guaranties proposed to be incurred, which does not exceed seven per cent of the average amount set forth in the last column of the above table and for which reserve funds have been or will have been established as heretofore provided, can be excluded in determining the power of the State to issue general obligation bonds. As it is not possible to predict with a reasonable degree of certainty when a guaranty will change from a contingent liability to an actual liability, it is assumed in conformity with fiscal conservatism and prudence, that all guaranties not otherwise excluded pursuant to article VII, section 13 of the state constitution, will become due and payable in the same fiscal year in which the greatest amount of principal and interest on general obligation bonds, after exclusions, occurs. Thus, based on such assumptions and on the determination in paragraph (8), all of the outstanding guaranties and the guaranties proposed to be incurred can be excluded.

- (8) Determination whether the debt limit will be exceeded at the time of issuance. From the foregoing and on the assumption that all of the bonds identified in paragraph (5) will be issued at an interest rate of 6.75 per cent through June 30, 1997 and at 6.5 per cent thereafter, it can be determined from the following schedule that the bonds which are proposed to be issued, which include all authorized and unissued bonds previously authorized, as adjusted, general obligation bonds and instruments of indebtedness under which the State incurs a contingent liability as a guarantor authorized in this Act, will not cause the debt limit to be exceeded at the time of such issuance:

Time Of Issuance And Amount To Be Counted Against Debt Limit	Debt Limit At Time Of Issuance	Greatest Amount And Year Of Highest Principal And Interest On Bonds And Guaranties
Remainder of FY 1995-1996 \$190,000,000 1st half	\$541,949,350	\$397,151,661 (1996-1997)
FY 1996-1997 221,350,000 2nd half	551,934,816	398,957,472 (1997-1998)
FY 1996-1997 426,550,000 1st half	551,934,816	440,305,607 (1999-2000)
FY 1997-1998 95,000,000 2nd half	553,412,997	446,480,607 (1999-2000)
FY 1997-1998 95,000,000 1st half	553,412,997	452,655,607 (1999-2000)
FY 1998-1999 95,000,000	571,492,318	458,830,607 (1999-2000)

2nd half

FY 1998-1999

95,000,000

571,492,318

465,005,607 (1999-2000)

- (9) Overall and concluding finding. From the facts, estimates, and assumptions stated in this declaration of findings, the conclusion is reached that the total amount of principal and interest estimated for the general obligation bonds authorized in this Act, and for all bonds authorized and unissued, and calculated for all bonds issued and outstanding, and all guaranties, will not cause the debt limit to be exceeded at the time of issuance.

SECTION 2. The legislature finds the bases for the declaration of findings set forth in this Act reasonable. The assumptions set forth in this Act with respect to the principal amount of general obligation bonds which will be issued, the amount of principal and interest on reimbursable general obligation bonds which are assumed to be excludable, and the assumed maturity structure shall not be deemed to be binding, it being the understanding of the legislature that such matters must remain subject to substantial flexibility.

SECTION 3. Authorization for issuance of general obligation bonds. General obligation bonds may be issued as provided by law in an amount that may be necessary to finance projects authorized in House Bill No. 2800, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1<sup>2</sup> (the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1996), House Bill No. 3650, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, C.D. 1<sup>1</sup> (the Judiciary Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1996), House Bill No. 3540, H.D. 1<sup>4</sup> (Relating to Public Safety), and House Bill No. 3383<sup>5</sup> (Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds and Making An Appropriation for the Reimbursement of the Airport Revenue Fund) passed by this regular session of 1996, and designated to be financed from the general obligation bond fund and from the general obligation bond fund with debt service cost to be paid from special funds; provided that the sum total of the general obligation bonds so issued shall not exceed \$134,282,000.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, general obligation bonds may be issued from time to time in accordance with section 39-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, in such principal amount as may be required to refund any general obligation bonds of the State of Hawaii heretofore or hereafter issued pursuant to law.

SECTION 4. The provisions of this Act are declared to be severable and if any portion thereof is held to be invalid for any reason, the validity of the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

SECTION 5. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute in section 1 and section 3 the corresponding act numbers for bills identified therein.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 18, 1996.)

#### Notes

1. Act 244.
2. Act 287.
3. Act 232.
4. Act 77.
5. Act 118.