
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the city and county
2 of Honolulu, with a population of approximately 900,000, is the
3 largest as well as the fastest growing county in the State, in
4 view of major developments occurring in the west Oahu area. As
5 the population expands in the west Oahu area, the need for
6 government services is expected to increase.

7 The legislature believes, however, that demands for county-
8 level services will be greater than demands for state-level
9 services and that the splitting of the city and county of
10 Honolulu into two separate counties, one for west Oahu and one
11 for east Oahu, would better serve all residents of the island of
12 Oahu for the following reasons:

13 (1) Existing communities such as Schofield Barracks,
14 Wheeler, Mililani, Wahiawa, Haleiwa, Waianae, Waialua,
15 Sunset Beach, Kahuku, and Laie provide the basic
16 framework for a future metropolis on the west side of
17 the island of Oahu;



- 1 (2) Existing utility infrastructure systems such as
2 roadways, water, drainage, electrical, and sewerage
3 systems can be improved, upgraded, and expanded in
4 these communities;
- 5 (3) Public facilities such as schools, parks, playgrounds,
6 recreational centers, medical, civic, governmental
7 (police, fire, and emergency medical, among others)
8 services can be expanded;
- 9 (4) Private facilities such as medical, dental, health
10 care, business, manufacturing and retail complexes can
11 be expanded;
- 12 (5) Existing employment sectors such as industrial,
13 manufacturing, wholesale, and retail centers can be
14 expanded;
- 15 (6) Existing agricultural sectors can be integrated and
16 expanded;
- 17 (7) Existing and future communities can be environmentally
18 equipped for reuse water, sewerage, solid waste,
19 drainage, and alternative energy infrastructure
20 systems;
- 21 (8) Existing and future communities can be master-planned
22 with pedestrian-oriented townscapes;



1 (9) Existing and future communities can be master-planned
2 to promote and sustain economic development, including
3 new eco-tourism, high-technology, pollution-free, and
4 environmentally-oriented industries;

5 (10) Existing and future communities can be economically
6 self-sustaining, including community-operated
7 recycling and trash pickup services, emergency police,
8 security, medical, fire, and communication services;

9 (11) Existing and new communities can be taxed at a
10 graduated rate to amortize the capital, repair and
11 maintenance costs of the utility infrastructure, and
12 the public and private facilities; and

13 (12) Existing and future communities can be master-planned
14 to allow efficient and time-saving commuting options
15 between communities, employment, educational,
16 recreational, and service sectors.

17 The purpose of this Act is to establish a blue ribbon
18 committee to reorganize the city and county of Honolulu into two
19 counties and to recommend an appropriate implementation plan.

20 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a blue ribbon
21 committee to reorganize the city and county of Honolulu into two
22 separate counties. The committee shall be composed of eleven



1 members, of which four shall be appointed by the mayor of the
2 city and county of Honolulu, four shall be appointed by the
3 chair of the council of the city and county of Honolulu, and the
4 remaining three shall be appointed by the governor from lists
5 submitted by the president of the senate and the speaker of the
6 house of representatives. The members of the committee shall
7 not receive compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all
8 necessary expenses incurred in the actual conduct of business on
9 behalf of the committee. The committee may hire necessary staff
10 to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities.

11 (b) In conducting its reorganization planning effort and
12 making its recommendations, the committee shall consider:

13 (1) Distribution of the population in the city and county
14 of Honolulu and the needs for and accessibility to
15 county government services by the various population
16 segments;

17 (2) Functions and responsibilities of the city and county
18 of Honolulu government, the effectiveness of the
19 delivery of services through the current organization,
20 and recommendations as to how services should be
21 delivered through the new counties; and



1 (3) Feasibility of establishing one west Oahu county
2 (consisting of Pearlridge, Pearl City, Waipahu,
3 Mililani, Wahiawa, Haleiwa, Waialua, Kaneohe, Kailua,
4 Kapolei, Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, and all areas in
5 between) and one east Oahu county (consisting of the
6 remaining areas of Oahu).

7 (c) The implementation plan shall include, but not be
8 limited to:

9 (1) Maps depicting the proposed boundaries for the two
10 counties and the number of council seats and the
11 apportionment thereof for each county;

12 (2) Recommendations for other changes required such as the
13 formulation of new county charters and the transfer of
14 funds, property, equipment, and personnel;

15 (3) A schedule reflecting the implementing actions
16 required to establish two separate counties, including
17 a referendum vote on the question of establishing two
18 separate counties, the formulation and ratification of
19 new county charters, and the construction of a new
20 county seat in west Oahu; and

21 (4) The fiscal requirements to implement the recommended
22 reorganization, including an estimate of changes, if



1 any, that would need to be made to existing county
 2 real property tax rates, in order for each new county
 3 to raise revenues adequate to maintain current levels
 4 of county government services to all Oahu residents.

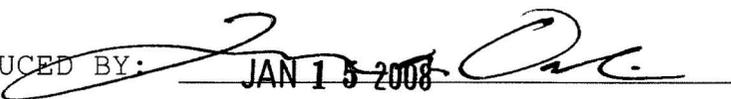
5 (d) The committee shall submit an interim report to the
 6 governor, the legislature, and the mayor and the council of the
 7 city and county of Honolulu not later than twenty days prior to
 8 the convening of the 2009 regular session, and a final report
 9 not later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2010
 10 regular session. The reports shall include the committee's
 11 findings and recommendations and any proposed legislation. The
 12 committee shall cease to exist on June 30, 2010.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 to
 16 cover the expenses of the blue ribbon committee established by
 17 this Act, including the hiring of necessary staff.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the city and
 19 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

21

INTRODUCED BY:  ~~JAN 15 2008~~



Report Title:

Blue Ribbon Committee; City and County of Honolulu

Description:

Establishes a blue ribbon committee to plan the reorganization of the city and county of Honolulu into two separate counties; appropriates funds to cover the committee's administrative expenses.

