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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COMPENSATION OF TRUSTEES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 607-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3           "**§607-18 Compensation of trustees.** (a) Unless the trust  
4 instrument otherwise provides, or the settlor and trustee  
5 otherwise agree, or, after the settlor's death, all the  
6 beneficiaries and the trustee otherwise agree, the trustee shall  
7 be entitled to the compensation set forth in this section and  
8 the compensation shall be deemed to be reasonable. For good  
9 cause shown, the court may also approve any other fee  
10 arrangement that it deems reasonable.

11           (b) Banks and trust companies, and individuals who in the  
12 ordinary course of business serve as fiduciaries, serving as  
13 trustees shall be entitled to reasonable compensation, which may  
14 be set forth in their published fee schedules and may be amended  
15 from time to time; provided that advance written notice of any  
16 amendment to the fee schedule is provided to the settlor or,  
17 after the settlor's death, to all beneficiaries[~~-~~] who are  
18 vested at the time of the notice.



1 (c) Except as provided in [~~subsection~~] subsections (a) [7]  
2 and (b), individuals serving as trustees shall be entitled to  
3 the following compensation:

4 (1) Compensation Upon Inception of the Trust:

5 (A) One per cent based upon the gross fair market  
6 value of the trust assets on the date of the  
7 trustee's acceptance shall be payable to the  
8 first trustee who is not the settlor of the  
9 trust; and

10 (B) One per cent based upon the gross fair market  
11 value of the trust assets of the trust created  
12 under the revocable living or administrative  
13 trust on the date of the trustee's acceptance  
14 shall be payable to the first trustee of any  
15 trust created under a revocable living trust  
16 after the settlor's death or other administrative  
17 trust; provided that the trustee shall not also  
18 be the trustee of the revocable living trust or  
19 administrative trust that is the source of  
20 funding for the newly-created trust;



1 ~~[provided that if more than one individual serves as~~  
2 ~~trustee, then the compensation shall be divided~~  
3 ~~equally between the then acting trustees unless~~  
4 ~~otherwise agreed by the trustees. If one or more~~  
5 ~~individuals are serving as co trustees with a bank or~~  
6 ~~trust company, then the individual trustees shall be~~  
7 ~~entitled to fifty per cent of the compensation~~  
8 ~~provided for under this paragraph described herein,~~  
9 ~~which shall be divided among the then serving~~  
10 ~~individual co trustees as they may agree. A bank or~~  
11 ~~trust company serving as co trustee shall be entitled~~  
12 ~~to the compensation described in subsection (b).]~~

13 (2) Annual Compensation:

14 (A) Upon all moneys and other property received in  
15 the nature of revenue or income of the trust,  
16 such as rents, interest, dividends, and general  
17 profits, five per cent of the income received  
18 during ~~[each]~~ the year shall be payable to the  
19 trustee, ~~[as and when the income is received,]~~  
20 and paid not more than once per quarter;



1 (B) Upon the principal trust, the trustee shall be  
2 compensated no more than once per quarter, based  
3 on the following:

4 (i) One-half of one per cent of the first  
5 \$5,000,000;

6 (ii) One-third of one per cent of the next  
7 \$3,000,000;

8 (iii) One-fifth of one per cent of the next  
9 \$2,000,000; and

10 (iv) One-tenth of one per cent of assets in  
11 excess of \$10,000,000,

12 based upon the gross fair market value of the  
13 principal assets as of the first [business] day  
14 of the trust's fiscal year; and

15 (C) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), a  
16 trustee shall be entitled to a minimum total  
17 annual compensation of \$3,000; [and

18 ~~(D) The threshold dollar amounts in subparagraph (B)~~  
19 ~~and the dollar amounts in subparagraph (C) shall~~  
20 ~~be increased by an amount equal to (i) the dollar~~  
21 ~~amount from subparagraph (B) or (C), as~~



1 ~~applicable, multiplied by (ii) a cost of living~~  
2 ~~adjustment with changes in the Consumer Price~~  
3 ~~Index (CPI) using the year 2014 as the base. The~~  
4 ~~"CPI" means the Consumer Price Index (Annual~~  
5 ~~Average) for All Urban Consumers (CPI U); for the~~  
6 ~~Honolulu area All Items, reported by the Bureau~~  
7 ~~of Labor Statistics, United States Department of~~  
8 ~~Labor or its successor or, if the index is~~  
9 ~~discontinued, an equivalent index reported by a~~  
10 ~~federal authority. If no such index is reported,~~  
11 ~~the term means the substitute index chosen by a~~  
12 ~~court of competent jurisdiction. If any amount~~  
13 ~~as adjusted is not a multiple of \$10,000, such~~  
14 ~~amount shall be rounded down to the next lowest~~  
15 ~~multiple of \$10,000;]~~

16 (3) Compensation Upon Termination of the Trust:

17 One per cent based upon the gross fair market value of  
18 the trust assets as of the termination date of the  
19 trust pursuant to the terms of the trust, shall be  
20 payable to the trustee at any time after the



1 termination date, up to and including the date the  
2 trust assets are finally distributed; and  
3 (4) Compensation for Special [Service Fees:] Services:  
4 Further compensation may be made as the court deems  
5 just and reasonable for services performed in  
6 connection with assuming the trusteeship, sales or  
7 leases of real estate, contested or litigated claims  
8 against the estate, the adjustment and payment of  
9 extensive or complicated estate or inheritance taxes,  
10 the preparation of estate and income tax returns, the  
11 carrying on of the decedent's business pursuant to an  
12 order of court or under the provisions of any will,  
13 litigation in regard to the property of the estate,  
14 and such other special services as may be necessary  
15 for the trustee to perform, prosecute, or defend;  
16 provided that if all of the beneficiaries agree to the  
17 trustee's compensation for special [service fees,]  
18 services, then court approval shall not be  
19 required[-];  
20 provided that if more than one individual serves as trustee,  
21 then the compensation due pursuant to paragraphs (1), (2), and



1 (3), as applicable, shall be divided equally between the then-  
2 acting trustees, unless otherwise agreed by the trustees. If  
3 one or more individuals are serving as trustees with a bank or  
4 trust company, then the individual trustees shall be entitled to  
5 fifty per cent of the compensation due pursuant to paragraphs  
6 (1), (2), and (3), as applicable, which shall be divided among  
7 the then-serving individual trustees as they may agree. An  
8 individual who in the ordinary course of business serves as a  
9 fiduciary, serving together with one or more individuals as  
10 trustees, or a bank or trust company serving together with one  
11 or more individuals as trustees, shall be entitled to the  
12 compensation described in subsection (b).

13 (d) For purposes of any agreement between the trustee and  
14 the beneficiaries regarding the trustee's compensation, the  
15 agreement shall be binding upon incapacitated, minor, unborn,  
16 and unascertained beneficiaries if the applicable provisions of  
17 section 560:1-403(2)(B) and (C) are satisfied.

18 (e) The following terms, or comparable language in the  
19 provisions of a trust, unless otherwise limited or modified,  
20 authorize compensation to the trustee under this section:  
21 "reasonable compensation", "compensation in accordance with



1 applicable law", "compensation", "reasonable compensation  
2 commensurate with the services performed", and "statutory  
3 compensation".

4 (f) This section shall apply to future accounting [~~in~~]  
5 periods of existing trusts as well as to new trusts. This  
6 section shall not apply to charitable trusts."

7 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.





**Report Title:**

Compensation of Trustees

**Description:**

Clarifies how trustees shall be compensated. Effective  
1/7/2059. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

