
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 171-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§171-2 Definition of public lands.** "Public lands" means
4 all lands or interest therein in the State classed as government
5 or crown lands previous to August 15, 1895, or acquired or
6 reserved by the government upon or subsequent to that date by
7 purchase, exchange, escheat, or the exercise of the right of
8 eminent domain, or in any other manner; including lands accreted
9 after May 20, 2003, and not otherwise awarded, submerged lands,
10 and lands beneath tidal waters that are suitable for
11 reclamation, together with reclaimed lands that have been given
12 the status of public lands under this chapter, except:

13 (1) Lands designated in section 203 of the Hawaiian Homes
14 Commission Act, 1920, as amended;

15 (2) Lands set aside pursuant to law for the use of the
16 United States;

17 (3) Lands being used for roads and streets;

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1 (4) Lands to which the United States relinquished the
2 absolute fee and ownership under section 91 of the
3 Hawaiian Organic Act prior to the admission of Hawaii
4 as a state of the United States unless subsequently
5 placed under the control of the board of land and
6 natural resources and given the status of public lands
7 in accordance with the state constitution, the
8 Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, or
9 other laws;

10 (5) Lands to which the University of Hawaii holds title;

11 (6) Lands to which the Hawaii housing finance and
12 development corporation in its corporate capacity
13 holds title;

14 (7) Lands to which the Hawaii community development
15 authority in its corporate capacity holds title;

16 (8) Lands to which the Hawaii public housing authority in
17 its corporate capacity holds title;

18 ~~[-(8)-]~~ (9) Lands to which the department of agriculture
19 holds title by way of foreclosure, voluntary
20 surrender, or otherwise, to recover moneys loaned or
21 to recover debts otherwise owed the department under
22 chapter 167;

1 ~~[(9)]~~ (10) Lands that are set aside by the governor to
2 the Aloha Tower development corporation; lands leased
3 to the Aloha Tower development corporation by any
4 department or agency of the State; or lands to which
5 the Aloha Tower development corporation holds title in
6 its corporate capacity;

7 ~~[(10)]~~ (11) Lands that are set aside by the governor to
8 the agribusiness development corporation; lands leased
9 to the agribusiness development corporation by any
10 department or agency of the State; or lands to which
11 the agribusiness development corporation in its
12 corporate capacity holds title; and.

13 ~~[(11)]~~ (12) Lands to which the Hawaii technology
14 development corporation in its corporate capacity
15 holds title;

16 provided that, except as otherwise limited under federal law and
17 except for state land used as an airport as defined in section
18 262-1, public lands shall include the air rights over any
19 portion of state land upon which a county mass transit project
20 is developed after July 11, 2005."


21 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

4

BY REQUEST

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1 **Report Title:**

2 Public Lands; Hawaii Public Housing Authority Lands Exemption

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4 **Description:**

5 Exempts lands to which Hawaii Public Housing Authority holds

6 title from the definition of "public lands" in section 171-2,

7 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Human Services, Hawaii Public Housing Authority

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

PURPOSE: To exempt Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) titled lands from the definition of "public lands".

MEANS: Amend section 171-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: The HPHA is authorized to acquire, own and hold real property, and therefore, its titled lands do not fall under the catchall definition of state "public lands" under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) or the DLNR's jurisdiction.

In 2006, the Legislative Reference Bureau published a report, "Clarifying Statutory References in State Housing Agency Laws," stating that an amendment should be made based on the facts and history of both the HPHA and Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC).

"Prior to 1987, §171-2 excluded from the definition of 'public lands' those 'lands to which the Hawaii housing authority in its corporate capacity holds title'. Act 337, SLH 1987, that established the housing finance and development corporation, added a further exclusion in §171-2 for the corporation's properties. After 1997, when the two agencies merged into the housing and community development corporation of Hawaii, this section was further amended to change the reference from the housing and community development corporation of Hawaii to the (present) Hawaii housing finance and development corporation.

It would appear that this section should be amended to include both the Hawaii housing

finance and development corporation and the Hawaii public housing authority, as both agencies are authorized to acquire, own, and hold real property." "Clarifying Statutory References in State Housing Agency Laws," Report No. 5, 2006, Legislative Reference Bureau.

Impact on the public: There should be a positive impact on the public as this measure will clarify the jurisdiction over HPHA titled lands.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
None.

GENERAL FUNDS: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: HMS 220; HMS 229.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.