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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an ever increasing  
2 number of visitors can negatively impact the quality of life of  
3 Hawaii residents by straining the State's infrastructure and  
4 natural resources. The legislature further finds that, although  
5 the Hawaii tourism authority advocates for a high quality  
6 tourism experience and increased revenue generation by visitors  
7 instead of increased numbers of visitors, the number of annual  
8 visitors to the State has steadily risen over time. Between  
9 2009 and 2016, the total number of annual visitors increased  
10 every year, from 6,517,054 in 2009 to 8,821,802 in 2016, with  
11 the number of annual visitors projected to reach 9,562,109 in  
12 2018 and 9,847,610 in 2020.

13           The purpose of this Act is to support the State's tourism  
14 industry by allocating an appropriate portion of the Hawaii  
15 tourism authority's budget to the protection and enhancement of  
16 the State's infrastructure and natural resources.



SECTION 2. Chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§201B- Hawaii tourism authority budget allocations.

(a) If, in any fiscal year:

(1) The total number of visitor arrivals to the State exceeds nine million; or

(2) The total number of visitor arrivals to any county exceeds 6,500,000,

fifteen per cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget, including any transient accommodations tax revenues to be allocated and expended pursuant to section 237D-6.5(b)(5), for the following fiscal year shall be distributed pursuant to subsection (c) to support public infrastructure and natural resources.

(b) In addition to the distribution pursuant to subsection (a), five per cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget, multiplied by the greater of:

(1) The number of increments of five hundred thousand visitor arrivals in excess of nine million visitor arrivals in the State; or



1       (2) The number of increments of 125,000 visitor arrivals  
2       in excess of 6,500,000 visitor arrivals in any county,  
3       shall be distributed pursuant to subsection (c);  
4       provided that the total distribution amount shall not  
5       exceed forty-five per cent of the Hawaii tourism  
6       authority's budget in that fiscal year.

7       (c) Moneys subject to distribution under subsections (a)  
8       and (b) shall be distributed as follows:

9       (1) Fifty per cent shall be transferred to the general  
10       fund of the State of Hawaii to be expended by the  
11       department of land and natural resources to conserve  
12       natural resources that are or may be affected by  
13       increased numbers of visitors; and

14       (2) Fifty per cent shall be distributed among the counties  
15       in proportion to the number of visitor arrivals in  
16       each county, with individuals who visit multiple  
17       counties counting as a visitor arrival in each county  
18       visited, to be expended to develop and support  
19       infrastructure that is or may be affected by increased  
20       numbers of visitors."



1       SECTION 3. The Hawaii tourism authority shall submit an  
2 action report, which shall describe in detail any actions taken  
3 to address goal 1, "Improve the Integrity of the Destination",  
4 of the Hawaii tourism authority's five-year strategic plan 2016,  
5 to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
6 convening of the regular session of 2019; provided that the  
7 report shall cover all actions taken to address goal 1 of the  
8 five-year strategic plan 2016 from January 1, 2016, to  
9 November 30, 2018.

10       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

11       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Tourism Authority; Visitor Arrivals; Natural Resources;  
Infrastructure; Action Report

**Description:**

Requires that a percentage of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget be transferred to the department of land and natural resources and the counties if the number of visitor arrivals in the State exceeds nine million, or if the number of visitor arrivals in any county exceeds 6.5 million. Requires the Hawaii tourism authority to submit an action report to the legislature.  
(SD1)

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