

JAN 24 2019

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the protection and
2 restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are essential to the
3 quality of life of Hawaii's residents, culture, and economy.
4 The legislature further finds that the department of land and
5 natural resources' jurisdiction encompasses nearly 1,300,000
6 acres of state lands, beaches, and coastal waters, as well as
7 seven hundred fifty miles of coastline, which is the fourth
8 longest in the country. The department's jurisdiction includes
9 state parks, historical sites, forests and forest reserves,
10 aquatic life and its sanctuaries, game management areas, public
11 hunting areas, and natural area reserves. The department of
12 land and natural resources also has one of the largest land and
13 ocean jurisdictions of any similar state agency in the United
14 States, however the department lacks adequate funding to meet
15 the challenges and threats posed to the long-term sustainability
16 of Hawaii's natural resources.



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1 The legislature additionally finds that for the next ten
2 years, Hawaii is in a period of critical transition with respect
3 to conservation of its natural resources, particularly in light
4 of the severe threats of the climate crisis, and therefore
5 conservation programs need more support, budget, and personnel
6 to make a real impact. Following Hawaii's successful hosting of
7 the World Conservation Congress in 2016, the adoption of the
8 sustainable Hawaii initiative, and the State securing its
9 position as a global leader in conservation and climate issues,
10 Hawaii should align its state natural resource conservation
11 goals with the growing commitment around the world by
12 significantly increasing programs for protecting and restoring
13 nature during the critical decade from 2020 to 2030.

14 The purpose of this Act is to update and increase Hawaii's
15 natural resources conservation programs to ensure maximum long-
16 term benefit to Hawaii's environment, culture, and economy by
17 setting a goal of doubling the department of land and natural
18 resources' programs, capacity, and impact by 2030 by increasing
19 funding for the department to reach those goals and by creating
20 a state 2030 natural resources conservation goal action plan.



1 SECTION 2. Section 237D-6.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) Except for the revenues collected pursuant to section
4 237D-2(e), revenues collected under this chapter shall be
5 distributed in the following priority, with the excess revenues
6 to be deposited into the general fund:

7 (1) \$1,500,000 shall be allocated to the Turtle Bay
8 conservation easement special fund beginning July 1,
9 2015, for the reimbursement to the state general fund
10 of debt service on reimbursable general obligation
11 bonds, including ongoing expenses related to the
12 issuance of the bonds, the proceeds of which were used
13 to acquire the conservation easement and other real
14 property interests in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the
15 protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural
16 resources important to the State, until the bonds are
17 fully amortized;

18 (2) \$16,500,000 shall be allocated to the convention
19 center enterprise special fund established under
20 section 201B-8;



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- 1 (3) \$79,000,000 shall be allocated to the tourism special
2 fund established under section 201B-11; provided that:
- 3 (A) Beginning on July 1, 2012, and ending on June 30,
4 2015, \$2,000,000 shall be expended from the
5 tourism special fund for development and
6 implementation of initiatives to take advantage
7 of expanded visa programs and increased travel
8 opportunities for international visitors to
9 Hawaii;
- 10 (B) Of the \$79,000,000 allocated:
- 11 (i) \$1,000,000 shall be allocated for the
12 operation of a Hawaiian center and the
13 museum of Hawaiian music and dance at the
14 Hawaii convention center; and
- 15 (ii) 0.5 per cent of the \$79,000,000 shall be
16 transferred to a sub-account in the tourism
17 special fund to provide funding for a safety
18 and security budget, in accordance with the
19 Hawaii tourism strategic plan 2005-2015; and
- 20 (C) Of the revenues remaining in the tourism special
21 fund after revenues have been deposited as



1 provided in this paragraph and except for any sum
2 authorized by the legislature for expenditure
3 from revenues subject to this paragraph,
4 beginning July 1, 2007, funds shall be deposited
5 into the tourism emergency special fund,
6 established in section 201B-10, in a manner
7 sufficient to maintain a fund balance of
8 \$5,000,000 in the tourism emergency special fund;

9 (4) \$103,000,000 shall be allocated as follows: Kauai
10 county shall receive 14.5 per cent, Hawaii county
11 shall receive 18.6 per cent, city and county of
12 Honolulu shall receive 44.1 per cent, and Maui county
13 shall receive 22.8 per cent; provided that commencing
14 with fiscal year 2018-2019, a sum that represents the
15 difference between a county public employer's annual
16 required contribution for the separate trust fund
17 established under section 87A-42 and the amount of the
18 county public employer's contributions into that trust
19 fund shall be retained by the state director of
20 finance and deposited to the credit of the county
21 public employer's annual required contribution into



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1 that trust fund in each fiscal year, as provided in
2 section 87A-42, if the respective county fails to
3 remit the total amount of the county's required annual
4 contributions, as required under section 87A-43; [~~and~~]

5 (5) \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the special land and
6 development fund established under section 171-19;
7 provided that the allocation shall be expended in
8 accordance with the Hawaii tourism authority strategic
9 plan for:

10 (A) The protection, preservation, maintenance, and
11 enhancement of natural resources, including
12 beaches, important to the visitor industry;

13 (B) Planning, construction, and repair of facilities;
14 and

15 (C) Operation and maintenance costs of public lands,
16 including beaches, connected with enhancing the
17 visitor experience[-]; and

18 (6) One per cent shall be allocated to the department of
19 land and natural resources to achieve the state 2030
20 natural resources conservation goal action plan.



1 All transient accommodations taxes shall be paid into the
2 state treasury each month within ten days after collection and
3 shall be kept by the state director of finance in special
4 accounts for distribution as provided in this subsection.

5 As used in this subsection, "fiscal year" means the twelve-
6 month period beginning on July 1 of a calendar year and ending
7 on June 30 of the following calendar year."

8 SECTION 3. (a) The department of land and natural
9 resources shall develop a comprehensive statewide baseline
10 assessment of natural resources, threats, priorities,
11 benchmarks, and recommendations as the basis of its state 2030
12 natural resources conservation goal action plan, through a
13 statewide public participation process.

14 (b) The department of land and natural resources shall
15 submit the state 2030 natural resources conservation goal action
16 plan to the legislature no later than December 31, 2020.

17 (c) The department of land and natural resources shall
18 evaluate the progress toward achievement of the state 2030
19 natural resources conservation goal action plan and shall make
20 adjustments, as needed, to the action plan every two years. The
21 department of land and natural resources shall submit a report



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1 of the evaluation, including any proposed legislation, to the
 2 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 3 the regular session of 2022 and every other regular session
 4 thereafter.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,000 or so much
 7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
 8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 9 2020-2021 for the department of land and natural resources to
 10 develop the state 2030 natural resources conservation goal
 11 action plan.

12 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 13 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; State 2030 Natural Resources Conservation Goal Action Plan; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to develop a state 2030 natural resources conservation goal action plan and allocates one per cent of the revenues of the transient accommodations tax to the department in order to achieve the action plan. Makes an appropriation.

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

