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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE SMALL BOAT HARBOR FEES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the department of  
2 land and natural resources' division of boating and ocean  
3 recreation is responsible for operating and maintaining dozens  
4 of facilities and installations for the boating public in  
5 addition to regulating ocean recreation activities in state  
6 ocean waters from the shoreline to three nautical miles from  
7 shore.

8           The division of boating and ocean recreation is responsible  
9 for operating and maintaining seventeen small boat harbors  
10 statewide. The small boat harbor program, which had a  
11 \$300,000,000 backlog in deferred maintenance projects, was  
12 transferred from the department of transportation to the  
13 department of land and natural resources in 1991. Adjusted for  
14 inflation, the deferred maintenance balance is equivalent to  
15 approximately \$570,000,000 in 2021. The current deferred  
16 maintenance balance of the state small boat harbor program is  
17 approximately \$310,000,000, a roughly forty-six per cent



1 decrease since 1991, when adjusted for inflation. While the  
2 department of land and natural resources has been able to  
3 incrementally decrease the deferred maintenance balance,  
4 inflation and rising costs have outpaced, and continue to  
5 outpace, the division of boating and ocean recreation's revenue  
6 generation capabilities and the legislature's ability to fund  
7 maintenance projects through capital funds. The legislature  
8 recognizes that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic  
9 has exacerbated economic issues statewide, affecting the boating  
10 and ocean recreation program just as much as other government  
11 programs.

12 Generally, the small boat harbor program operates at a  
13 loss, with only a few small boat harbors generating revenue from  
14 mooring fees sufficient to offset costs. The legislature notes  
15 that the inability to collect adequate small boat harbor fees is  
16 one of the factors preventing the division of boating and ocean  
17 recreation from generating sufficient revenue. Continuing  
18 inadequate revenue generation will lead to a reduction in  
19 services offered by the division of boating and ocean  
20 recreation, increased delays in addressing maintenance needs at



1 small boat harbors, and a potential inability to maintain clean  
2 and sanitary facilities for the public.

3 The legislature further finds that public health and safety  
4 are at risk if the small boat harbor program cannot increase  
5 revenues. Enforcement patrols are necessary to reduce criminal  
6 activity and provide regular police presence in division of  
7 boating and ocean recreation facilities.

8 Additionally, the legislature recognizes that improving the  
9 division of boating and ocean recreation's ability to generate  
10 revenue will help the division to better maintain and repair  
11 small boat harbors and fund enforcement efforts through the  
12 department of land and natural resources' division of  
13 conservation and resources enforcement.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Require the division of boating and ocean recreation  
16 to set its small boat harbor mooring and liveaboard  
17 fees at fair market value, as determined by a state-  
18 licensed appraiser, without separate nonresident fees  
19 and cost-of-living adjustments; and



1 (2) Allow the division of boating and ocean recreation an  
2 additional option in determining commercial ocean  
3 operation fees.

4 SECTION 2. Section 200-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

6 "(c) The permittee shall pay moorage fees to the  
7 department for the use permit that shall be based on but not  
8 limited to the use of the vessel, [~~its~~] the vessel's effect on  
9 the harbor, use of facilities, and the cost of administering  
10 [~~this~~] the mooring program; [~~and, furthermore~~] provided that:

11 (1) Except for commercial maritime activities [~~where there~~  
12 ~~is~~] in which a tariff is established by the department  
13 of transportation, moorage fees shall be established  
14 by appraisal by a state-licensed appraiser approved by  
15 the department [~~and shall be higher for nonresidents~~  
16 ~~than for residents. The moorage fees shall be set by~~  
17 ~~appraisal categories schedule A and schedule B, to be~~  
18 ~~determined by the department, and may be increased~~  
19 ~~annually by the department, to reflect a cost-of-~~  
20 ~~living index increase, provided that:~~





- 1           ~~(A) Set] set~~ by the department; [and  
2           ~~(B) Not less than \$100 for nonresidents;]~~
- 3           (4) If a recreational vessel is used as a place of  
4           principal habitation, the permittee shall pay, in  
5           ~~[addition to]~~ in lieu of the moorage fee~~[,]~~ required  
6           by paragraph (1), a monthly liveaboard fee that shall  
7           be ~~[calculated at a rate of:~~  
8           ~~(A) \$5.20 a foot of vessel length a month if the~~  
9           ~~permittee is a state resident; and~~  
10          ~~(B) \$7.80 a foot of vessel length a month if the~~  
11          ~~permittee is a nonresident;~~  
12          ~~provided that the liveaboard fees established by this~~  
13          ~~paragraph may be increased by the department at the~~  
14          ~~rate of the annual cost of living index, but not more~~  
15          ~~than five per cent in any one year, beginning July 1~~  
16          ~~of each year;]~~ two times the moorage fee that would  
17          otherwise be assessed for a vessel of the same size;
- 18          (5) If a vessel is used for commercial purposes from ~~[its]~~  
19          the vessel's permitted mooring, the permittee shall  
20          pay, in lieu of the moorage ~~[and liveaboard]~~ fee~~[,]~~



1           required by paragraph (1), a monthly fee [based on  
2           ~~three]~~ that shall be the greater of:

3           (A) Three per cent of the gross revenues derived from  
4           the use of the vessel; [or two]

5           (B) \$1.50 per passenger carried for hire; or

6           (C) Two times the moorage fee that would otherwise be  
7           assessed for a recreational vessel of the same  
8           size[~~, whichever is greater, and];~~

9           (6) The department is authorized to assess and collect  
10           utility fees, including electrical and water charges,  
11           and common-area maintenance fees in small boat  
12           harbors[~~+~~]; and

13           (7) All fees established by appraisal pursuant to this  
14           subsection shall be set at fair market value."

15           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16           and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Mooring Fees; Liveaboard Fees; Commercial Fees; Appraisal;  
State Small Boat Harbors

**Description:**

Changes the criteria for calculating the various fees that the department of land and natural resources may charge for the usage of state small boat harbors, including requiring that certain state small boat harbor fees be set at fair market value, and how certain fees are applied. (HD1)

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