
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATE PARKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's state
2 parks, state monuments, state recreation areas, and wilderness
3 parks are beautiful natural resources that attract a high volume
4 of visitors and residents annually. These natural attractions
5 are foundational to the economic stability and vitality of the
6 State's economy. However, funds to maintain and care for these
7 resources are insufficient to preserve, maintain, and enhance
8 these sites. The legislature finds that in general, the State
9 allocates less than one per cent of its overall budget to
10 protect, maintain, and sustain state parks, state monuments,
11 state recreation areas, and wilderness parks.

12 The legislature also finds that the department of land and
13 natural resources is tasked with regulating seven hundred fifty
14 miles of coastline, 1.3 million acres of public lands, and three
15 million acres of ocean throughout the Hawaiian Islands. It is
16 therefore essential for the department of land and natural
17 resources to have funds to improve the current conditions of



1 parks, monuments, recreation areas, and wilderness parks under
2 its authority; enforce its rules and regulations; provide
3 adequate care to benefit these resources; and address ongoing
4 areas of concern, such as general repairs, utility work, illegal
5 camping, graffiti, and vandalism.

6 The legislature further finds that recently, the increase
7 in user fees at Diamond Head State Monument has proven to be
8 significantly profitable and beneficial to provide needed
9 revenue to protect this natural resource. Another successful
10 endeavor has occurred at Haena State Park, where advanced
11 reservations are required for all vehicles, walk in entries,
12 shuttle riders, and hikers. The legislature finds that it is
13 necessary and prudent for the State to explore how the
14 department of land and natural resources can expand these types
15 of revenue generating and management systems so that Hawaii's
16 state parks, state monuments, state recreation areas, and
17 wilderness parks can be enhanced for residents and visitors
18 alike and for economic self-sustainment.

19 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
20 land and natural resources to conduct a feasibility study on a



1 revenue generating and management system of user fees for
2 Hawaii's state parks.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural
4 resources shall conduct a feasibility study on a revenue
5 generating and management system of user fees for Hawaii's state
6 parks.

7 (b) The feasibility study shall include:

8 (1) An analysis of the potential benefits to the State
9 from establishing and implementing a system of
10 nonresident user fees and fees derived from advanced
11 reservations from state park users;

12 (2) The projected number of nonresident visitors to each
13 state park annually based on a system of nonresident
14 user fees and advanced reservations;

15 (3) Based on examination of state park models of other
16 states that have been effective at generating revenue
17 for their state parks from park user fees and other
18 revenue enhancements, recommendations of what systems
19 and methods would be feasible for implementation by
20 the department of land and natural resources for
21 Hawaii's state parks;



(4) A list of all state parks and whether each state park could reasonably incorporate a revenue generating and management system. If the department of land and natural resources determines that such a system is not feasible or appropriate, then the department shall include the rationale for its determination in the feasibility study; and

(5) The estimated cost to implement each of the recommended systems or methods.

(c) The department of land and natural resources shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023.

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

INTRODUCED BY:


JAN 26 2022



H.B. NO. 2413

Report Title:

Department of Land and Natural Resources; State Parks;
Feasibility Study; User Fees; Revenue Enhancements

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to conduct a feasibility study on a revenue generating and management system of user fees for Hawaii's state parks and to submit a report to the legislature.

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