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# 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 the division of  
2 state parks of the department of land and natural resources  
3 oversees and has jurisdiction over fifty park units encompassing  
4 thirty thousand acres throughout the State, which are composed  
5 of some of the State's most sought after and cherished natural,  
6 cultural, and historical resources. The state park system  
7 offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation and cultural  
8 heritage features ranging from landscaped grounds with  
9 facilities to scenic beaches and wildland areas with rustic  
10 camping and hiking opportunities. These park units enable  
11 residents and visitors to connect with nature and experience  
12 Hawaii's unique history.

13           The legislature further finds that with only one hundred  
14 twenty-eight positions for staffing, the state park system is  
15 the least staffed park system in the United States, in the  
16 bottom six state park systems in terms of funding, even though  
17 it is in the top twenty in terms of parks patronized by



1 recreational users and visitors. Furthermore, social media and  
2 outdoor trends are increasing patronage to state parks, adding  
3 greater impact and demand on aging infrastructure and fragile  
4 natural and cultural resources, and taxing the very limited  
5 capacity of inadequate staffing.

6 During the brief hiatus of public use during the  
7 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic due to closures in 2020, the  
8 state parks system increased parking, entry, camping, and  
9 lodging fees. The parking and entry fee increases are currently  
10 applied to out-of-state visitors at nine state parks. With the  
11 robust return of visitor arrivals in 2021, combined with other  
12 park revenue sources, revenue from state parks is expected to  
13 exceed \$12,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2022. The  
14 legislature also finds that the expenditure ceiling for the  
15 state parks special fund in fiscal year 2021 is \$93,312.

16 The purpose of this Act is to effectively increase the  
17 state parks special fund ceiling by appropriating funds from the  
18 special fund to reinvest the revenue derived from out-of-state  
19 visitors into the state park system to improve the quality of  
20 maintenance, management, and public safety and to be more



1 responsive with repairs and maintenance associated with the  
2 impacts of visitation and authorized and illicit uses.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the state parks  
4 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
5 necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the purposes authorized  
6 under section 184-3.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; State Parks; State  
Parks Special Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds out of the State Parks Special Fund to allow  
expenditures exceeding the expenditure ceiling of the special  
fund. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

