

JAN 17 2025

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO TOURISM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 201B-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:  
3 "~~§201B-9~~ **Tourism emergency.** (a) If the board determines  
4 that the occurrence of a [~~world conflict,~~] terrorist threat,  
5 [~~national or global economic crisis,~~] natural disaster, outbreak  
6 of disease, or other catastrophic event adversely affects  
7 Hawaii's tourism industry [~~by resulting in a substantial~~  
8 ~~interruption in the commerce of the State and adversely~~  
9 ~~affecting the welfare of its people~~], the board shall submit a  
10 request to the governor to declare that a tourism emergency  
11 exists.

12 (b) Upon declaration by the governor that a tourism  
13 emergency exists pursuant to subsection (a), the authority shall  
14 develop and implement measures to respond to the tourism  
15 emergency, including providing assistance to tourists during the  
16 emergency; provided that any tourism emergency response measure  
17 implemented pursuant to this subsection shall not include any



1 provision that would adversely affect the organized labor force  
2 in tourism-related industries. [~~With respect to a national or~~  
3 ~~global economic crisis only, in addition to the governor's~~  
4 ~~declaration of the existence of a tourism emergency, no action~~  
5 ~~in response to the tourism emergency declaration may be taken by~~  
6 ~~the authority without the governor's express approval.]"~~

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

9 "(b) Except for the revenues collected pursuant to section  
10 237D-2(e), revenues collected under this chapter shall be  
11 distributed in the following priority, with the excess revenues  
12 to be deposited into the general fund:

13 (1) \$1,500,000 shall be allocated to the Turtle Bay  
14 conservation easement special fund beginning July 1,  
15 2015, for the reimbursement to the state general fund  
16 of debt service on reimbursable general obligation  
17 bonds, including ongoing expenses related to the  
18 issuance of the bonds, the proceeds of which were used  
19 to acquire the conservation easement and other real  
20 property interests in Turtle Bay, Oahu, for the  
21 protection, preservation, and enhancement of natural



1 resources important to the State, until the bonds are  
2 fully amortized;

3 (2) \$11,000,000 shall be allocated to the convention  
4 center enterprise special fund established under  
5 section 201B-8;

6 (3) . An allocation shall be deposited into the tourism  
7 emergency special fund, established in section 201B-  
8 10, in a manner sufficient to maintain a fund balance  
9 of [~~\$5,000,000~~] \$3,000,000 in the tourism emergency  
10 special fund; and

11 (4) \$3,000,000 shall be allocated to the special land and  
12 development fund established under section 171-19;  
13 provided that the allocation shall be expended in  
14 accordance with the Hawaii tourism authority strategic  
15 plan for:

16 (A) The protection, preservation, maintenance, and  
17 enhancement of natural resources, including  
18 beaches, important to the visitor industry;

19 (B) Planning, construction, and repair of facilities;  
20 and



1 (C) Operation and maintenance costs of public lands,  
2 including beaches, connected with enhancing the  
3 visitor experience.

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

8 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Lynn DuCris



# S.B. NO. 986

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Tourism Authority; Governor; Tourism Emergency; Tourism  
Emergency Special Fund; Transient Accommodations Tax Revenues

**Description:**

Amends the types of occurrences for which the Hawaii Tourism  
Authority Board of Directors may request the Governor to declare  
a tourism emergency. Reduces the minimum balance to be  
maintained in the Tourism Emergency Special Fund through an  
allocation of transient accommodations tax revenues.

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

