

JAN 23 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOURISM.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 76-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) The civil service to which this chapter applies shall
4 comprise all positions in the State now existing or hereafter
5 established and embrace all personal services performed for the
6 State, except the following:

- 7 (1) Commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Hawaii
8 National Guard and positions in the Hawaii National
9 Guard that are required by state or federal laws or
10 regulations or orders of the National Guard to be
11 filled from those commissioned or enlisted personnel;
- 12 (2) Positions filled by persons employed by contract where
13 the director of human resources development has
14 certified that the service is special or unique or is
15 essential to the public interest and that, because of
16 circumstances surrounding its fulfillment, personnel
17 to perform the service cannot be obtained through



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normal civil service recruitment procedures. Any contract may be for any period not exceeding one year;

(3) Positions that must be filled without delay to comply with a court order or decree if the director determines that recruitment through normal recruitment civil service procedures would result in delay or noncompliance, such as the Felix-Cayetano consent decree;

(4) Positions filled by the legislature or by either house or any committee thereof;

(5) Employees in the office of the governor and office of the lieutenant governor, and household employees at Washington Place;

(6) Positions filled by popular vote;

(7) Department heads, officers, and members of any board, commission, or other state agency whose appointments are made by the governor or are required by law to be confirmed by the senate;

(8) Judges, referees, receivers, masters, jurors, notaries public, land court examiners, court commissioners, and



1 attorneys appointed by a state court for a special
2 temporary service;

3 (9) One bailiff for the chief justice of the supreme court
4 who shall have the powers and duties of a court
5 officer and bailiff under section 606-14; one
6 secretary or clerk for each justice of the supreme
7 court, each judge of the intermediate appellate court,
8 and each judge of the circuit court; one secretary for
9 the judicial council; one deputy administrative
10 director of the courts; three law clerks for the chief
11 justice of the supreme court, two law clerks for each
12 associate justice of the supreme court and each judge
13 of the intermediate appellate court, one law clerk for
14 each judge of the circuit court, two additional law
15 clerks for the civil administrative judge of the
16 circuit court of the first circuit, two additional law
17 clerks for the criminal administrative judge of the
18 circuit court of the first circuit, one additional law
19 clerk for the senior judge of the family court of the
20 first circuit, two additional law clerks for the civil
21 motions judge of the circuit court of the first



1 circuit, two additional law clerks for the criminal
2 motions judge of the circuit court of the first
3 circuit, and two law clerks for the administrative
4 judge of the district court of the first circuit; and
5 one private secretary for the administrative director
6 of the courts, the deputy administrative director of
7 the courts, each department head, each deputy or first
8 assistant, and each additional deputy, or assistant
9 deputy, or assistant defined in paragraph (16);

10 (10) First deputy and deputy attorneys general, the
11 administrative services manager of the department of
12 the attorney general, one secretary for the
13 administrative services manager, an administrator and
14 any support staff for the criminal and juvenile
15 justice resources coordination functions, and law
16 clerks;

17 (11) (A) Teachers, principals, vice-principals, complex
18 area superintendents, deputy and assistant
19 superintendents, other certificated personnel,
20 and no more than twenty noncertificated



1 administrative, professional, and technical

2 personnel not engaged in instructional work;

3 (B) Effective July 1, 2003, teaching assistants,
4 educational assistants, bilingual or bicultural
5 school-home assistants, school psychologists,
6 psychological examiners, speech pathologists,
7 athletic health care trainers, alternative school
8 work study assistants, alternative school
9 educational or supportive services specialists,
10 alternative school project coordinators, and
11 communications aides in the department of
12 education;

13 (C) The special assistant to the state librarian and
14 one secretary for the special assistant to the
15 state librarian; and

16 (D) Members of the faculty of the University of
17 Hawaii, including research workers, extension
18 agents, personnel engaged in instructional work,
19 and administrative, professional, and technical
20 personnel of the university;



- 1 (12) Employees engaged in special, research, or
2 demonstration projects approved by the governor;
- 3 (13) (A) Positions filled by inmates, patients of state
4 institutions, and persons with severe physical or
5 mental disabilities participating in the work
6 experience training programs;
- 7 (B) Positions filled with students in accordance with
8 guidelines for established state employment
9 programs; and
- 10 (C) Positions that provide work experience training
11 or temporary public service employment that are
12 filled by persons entering the workforce or
13 persons transitioning into other careers under
14 programs such as the federal Workforce Investment
15 Act of 1998, as amended, or the Senior Community
16 Service Employment Program of the Employment and
17 Training Administration of the United States
18 Department of Labor, or under other similar state
19 programs;
- 20 (14) A custodian or guide at Iolani Palace, the Royal
21 Mausoleum, and Hulihee Palace;



1 (15) Positions filled by persons employed on a fee,
2 contract, or piecework basis, who may lawfully perform
3 their duties concurrently with their private business
4 or profession or other private employment and whose
5 duties require only a portion of their time, if it is
6 impracticable to ascertain or anticipate the portion
7 of time to be devoted to the service of the State;

8 (16) Positions of first deputies or first assistants of
9 each department head appointed under or in the manner
10 provided in section 6, article V, of the Hawaii State
11 Constitution; three additional deputies or assistants
12 either in charge of the highways, harbors, and
13 airports divisions or other functions within the
14 department of transportation as may be assigned by the
15 director of transportation, with the approval of the
16 governor; one additional deputy in the department of
17 human services either in charge of welfare or other
18 functions within the department as may be assigned by
19 the director of human services; four additional
20 deputies in the department of health, each in charge
21 of one of the following: behavioral health,



1 environmental health, hospitals, and health resources
2 administration, including other functions within the
3 department as may be assigned by the director of
4 health, with the approval of the governor; two
5 additional deputies in charge of the law enforcement
6 programs, administration, or other functions within
7 the department of law enforcement as may be assigned
8 by the director of law enforcement, with the approval
9 of the governor; three additional deputies each in
10 charge of the correctional institutions,
11 rehabilitation services and programs, and
12 administration or other functions within the
13 department of corrections and rehabilitation as may be
14 assigned by the director of corrections and
15 rehabilitation, with the approval of the governor; two
16 administrative assistants to the state librarian; and
17 an administrative assistant to the superintendent of
18 education;

19 (17) Positions specifically exempted from this part by any
20 other law; provided that:



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(A) Any exemption created after July 1, 2014, shall expire three years after its enactment unless affirmatively extended by an act of the legislature; and

(B) All of the positions defined by paragraph (9) shall be included in the position classification plan;

(18) Positions in the state foster grandparent program and positions for temporary employment of senior citizens in occupations in which there is a severe personnel shortage or in special projects;

(19) Household employees at the official residence of the president of the University of Hawaii;

(20) Employees in the department of education engaged in the supervision of students during meal periods in the distribution, collection, and counting of meal tickets, and in the cleaning of classrooms after school hours on a less than half-time basis;

(21) Employees hired under the tenant hire program of the Hawaii public housing authority; provided that no more than twenty-six per cent of the authority's workforce



1 in any housing project maintained or operated by the
2 authority shall be hired under the tenant hire
3 program;

4 (22) Positions of the federally funded expanded food and
5 nutrition program of the University of Hawaii that
6 require the hiring of nutrition program assistants who
7 live in the areas they serve;

8 (23) Positions filled by persons with severe disabilities
9 who are certified by the state vocational
10 rehabilitation office that they are able to perform
11 safely the duties of the positions;

12 (24) The sheriff;

13 (25) A gender and other fairness coordinator hired by the
14 judiciary;

15 (26) Positions in the Hawaii National Guard youth and adult
16 education programs;

17 (27) In the Hawaii state energy office in the department of
18 business, economic development, and tourism, all
19 energy program managers, energy program specialists,
20 energy program assistants, and energy analysts;



(28) Administrative appeals hearing officers in the department of human services;

(29) In the Med-QUEST division of the department of human services, the division administrator, finance officer, health care services branch administrator, medical director, and clinical standards administrator;

(30) In the director's office of the department of human services, the enterprise officer, information security and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy compliance engineer, security and privacy compliance analyst, information technology implementation manager, assistant information technology implementation manager, resource manager, community or project development director, policy director, special assistant to the director, and limited English proficiency project manager or coordinator;

(31) The Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator in the executive office on aging;

(32) In the Hawaii emergency management agency, the executive officer, public information officer, civil defense administrative officer, branch chiefs, and



1 emergency operations center state warning point
2 personnel; provided that for state warning point
3 personnel, the director shall determine that
4 recruitment through normal civil service recruitment
5 procedures would result in delay or noncompliance;

6 (33) The executive director and seven full-time
7 administrative positions of the school facilities
8 authority;

9 (34) Positions in the Mauna Kea stewardship and oversight
10 authority;

11 (35) In the office of homeland security of the department
12 of law enforcement, the statewide interoperable
13 communications coordinator;

14 (36) In the social services division of the department of
15 human services, the business technology analyst;

16 (37) The executive director and staff of the 911 board;

17 [+](38)[+] Senior software developers in the department of
18 taxation;

19 [+](39)[+] In the department of law enforcement, five
20 Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement
21 Agencies, Inc., coordinator positions;



1 [+] (40) [+] The state fire marshal; [~~and~~

2 +] (41) [+] The administrator for the law enforcement standards

3 board[~~-~~]; and

4 (42) All positions filled by the Hawaii tourism authority

5 within the department of business, economic

6 development, and tourism.

7 The director shall determine the applicability of this
8 section to specific positions.

9 Nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect the civil
10 service status of any incumbent as it existed on July 1, 1955."

11 SECTION 2. Section 201B-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending the definition of "convention center
13 facility" to read as follows:

14 ""Convention center facility" or "convention center" means
15 any combination of land, buildings, and improvements thereon,
16 acquired or developed by the State, and includes exhibition
17 halls, meeting rooms, a plenary session hall, and support space
18 that reflect a [~~Hawaiian~~] Hawaii sense of place; any other
19 structure or facility required or useful for the operation of a
20 convention center, including commercial, office, community
21 service, parking, garage, and other supporting service



1 structures; and, all necessary, useful, and related equipment,
2 furnishings, and appurtenances."

3 SECTION 3. Section 201B-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended as follows:

5 1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

6 "(b) The authority shall be headed by a policy-making and
7 advisory board of directors that shall consist of twelve
8 members; provided that:

9 (1) The members shall be appointed by the governor as
10 provided in section 26-34, except as provided by this
11 section;

12 (2) The members shall include at least one representative
13 each from the city and county of Honolulu and the
14 counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui;

15 (3) Three members shall be appointed by the governor from
16 a list of three names submitted for each appointment
17 by the president of the senate, and three members
18 shall be appointed by the governor from a list of
19 three names submitted for each appointment by the
20 speaker of the house of representatives; provided that



1 if fewer than three names are submitted for each
2 appointment, the governor may disregard the list;

3 (4) At least six members shall have knowledge, experience,
4 and expertise in the area of accommodations,
5 transportation, retail, entertainment, or attractions,
6 and at least one member appointed by the governor
7 shall have knowledge, experience, and expertise in the
8 area of Hawaiian cultural practices; provided that no
9 more than three members shall represent, be employed
10 by, or be under contract to any sector of the industry
11 represented on the board;

12 (5) One member shall be the director of business, economic
13 development, and tourism, or the director's designee,
14 who shall be an ex officio voting member; and

15 (6) The governor shall make appointments to ensure the
16 fulfillment of all requirements of paragraphs (2) and
17 (4); provided that upon the occurrence of a vacancy
18 subject to paragraph (3), the governor shall notify
19 the president of the senate and the speaker of the
20 house of representatives of any unfulfilled
21 requirements pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (4), and



1 the president of the senate or the speaker of the
2 house of representatives, as appropriate, shall submit
3 nominees who fulfill those requirements[; and

4 ~~(7) No person who has served as a member of the board of~~
5 ~~directors of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau~~
6 ~~shall be eligible to sit as a member of the board of~~
7 ~~directors of the Hawaii tourism authority until at~~
8 ~~least two years have expired between the person's~~
9 ~~termination from service on the Hawaii Visitors and~~
10 ~~Convention Bureau board and the person's appointment~~
11 ~~to the authority's board of directors]."~~

12 2. By amending subsection (f) to read:

13 "(f) The board shall appoint one person to serve as
14 president and chief executive officer, exempt from chapters 76
15 and 88 who shall oversee the authority staff; provided [further]
16 that the compensation package shall not include private sector
17 moneys or other contributions. The board shall set the
18 president and chief executive officer's duties,
19 responsibilities, holidays, vacations, leaves, hours of work,
20 and working conditions. It may grant other benefits as it deems
21 necessary."



1 SECTION 4. Section 201B-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Except as otherwise [~~limited by this chapter,~~
4 provided by law, the authority may:

5 (1) Sue and be sued;

6 (2) Have a seal and alter the same at its pleasure;

7 (3) Through its president and chief executive officer,
8 make and execute contracts and all other instruments
9 necessary or convenient for the exercise of its powers
10 and functions under this chapter; provided that the
11 authority may enter into contracts and agreements for
12 a period of up to five years, subject to the
13 availability of funds; provided further that the
14 authority may enter into agreements for the use of the
15 convention center facility for a period of up to ten
16 years;

17 (4) Make and alter bylaws for its organization and
18 internal management;

19 (5) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, adopt rules
20 in accordance with chapter 91 with respect to its
21 projects, operations, properties, and facilities;



1 (6) Through its president and chief executive officer,
2 represent the authority in communications with the
3 governor and legislature;

4 (7) Through its president and chief executive officer,
5 provide for the appointment of officers, agents, a
6 sports coordinator, and employees, subject to the
7 approval of the board, prescribing their duties and
8 qualifications, and fixing their salaries, without
9 regard to chapters 76 and 78, if funds have been
10 appropriated by the legislature and allotted as
11 provided by law;

12 (8) Through its president and chief executive officer,
13 purchase supplies, equipment, or furniture;

14 (9) Through its president and chief executive officer,
15 allocate the space or spaces that are to be occupied
16 by the authority and appropriate staff;

17 (10) Through its president and chief executive officer,
18 engage the services of qualified persons to implement
19 the State's strategic tourism management plan or
20 portions thereof as determined by the authority;



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- 1 (11) Through its president and chief executive officer,
2 engage the services of consultants on a contractual
3 basis for rendering professional and technical
4 assistance and advice;
- 5 (12) Procure insurance against any loss in connection with
6 its property and other assets and operations in
7 amounts and from insurers as it deems desirable;
- 8 (13) Contract for or accept revenues, compensation,
9 proceeds, and gifts or grants in any form from any
10 public agency or any other source;
- 11 (14) Develop, coordinate, and implement state policies and
12 directions for tourism and related activities taking
13 into account the economic, social, and physical
14 impacts of tourism on the State, Hawaii's natural
15 environment, and areas frequented by visitors;
- 16 (15) Have a permanent, strong focus on Hawaii brand
17 management;
- 18 (16) Coordinate all agencies and advise the private sector
19 in the development of tourism-related activities and
20 resources;



- (17) Work to eliminate or reduce barriers to travel to provide a positive and competitive business environment, including coordinating with the department of transportation on issues affecting airlines and air route development;
- (18) Market and promote sports-related activities and events;
- (19) Coordinate the development of new products with the counties and other persons in the public sector and private sector, including the development of sports, culture, health and wellness, education, technology, agriculture, and nature tourism;
- (20) Establish a public information and educational program to inform the public of tourism and tourism-related problems;
- (21) Coordinate the development of tourism educational, training, and career counseling programs;
- (22) Establish a program to monitor, investigate, and respond to complaints about problems resulting directly or indirectly from the tourism industry and taking appropriate action as necessary;



(23) Develop and implement emergency measures to respond to any adverse effects on the tourism industry, pursuant to section 201B-9;

(24) Set and collect rents, fees, charges, or other payments for the lease, use, occupancy, or disposition of the convention center facility without regard to chapter 91;

(25) Notwithstanding chapter 171, acquire, lease as lessee or lessor, own, rent, hold, and dispose of the convention center facility in the exercise of its powers and the performance of its duties under this chapter;

(26) Acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise, and develop, construct, operate, own, manage, repair, reconstruct, enlarge, or otherwise effectuate, either directly or through developers, a convention center facility;

(27) Enhance the tourism industry in the State to grow its positive contributions to residents of the State; provided that the authority's initiatives shall follow destination management practices and integrate regenerative tourism; and



(28) Focus on perpetuating the uniqueness of the Hawaiian culture and community and their significance to the quality of the visitor experience by ensuring that:

(A) The Hawaiian culture is accurately portrayed by Hawaii's visitor industry;

(B) The Hawaiian language is supported and normalized as an official language of the State;

(C) Hawaiian cultural practitioners and cultural sites are supported, nurtured, and engaged in sustaining the visitor industry; and

(D) A Hawaiian cultural education and training program is provided for the members of the visitor industry workforce who have direct contact with visitors."

SECTION 5. Section 226-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) To achieve the visitor industry objective, it shall be the policy of the State to:

(1) Support and assist in the promotion of Hawaii's visitor attractions and facilities;



(2) Ensure that visitor industry activities are in keeping with the social, economic, and physical needs and aspirations of Hawaii's people;

(3) Improve the quality of existing visitor destination areas by utilizing Hawaii's strengths in science and technology;

(4) Encourage cooperation and coordination between the government and private sectors in developing and maintaining well-designed, adequately serviced visitor industry and related developments that are sensitive to neighboring communities and activities;

(5) Develop the industry in a manner that will:

(A) Continue to provide new job opportunities and steady employment for Hawaii's people;

(B) Commit to building the capacity of Hawaii's people; and

(C) Offer career opportunities to ultimately increase the percentage of Hawaii's people who hold management and leadership positions in the visitor industry;



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(6) Provide opportunities for Hawaii's people to obtain job training and education that will allow for upward mobility within the visitor industry;

(7) Foster a recognition of the contribution of the visitor industry to Hawaii's economy and the need to perpetuate the aloha spirit;

(8) Foster an understanding by visitors of the aloha spirit and of the unique and sensitive character of Hawaii's cultures and values;

(9) ~~[Form]~~ Allow the formation of community partnerships to ensure Native Hawaiian cultural integrity by:

(A) Supporting Hawaii's people and communities and their efforts to care for the land and protect the cultural and natural resources of the land, oceans, streams, and skies;

(B) Strengthening the relationships between the place and Hawaii's people and visitors alike;

(C) Engaging in collaborative efforts that provide visitors with genuine and meaningful experiences in Hawaii;



(D) Ensuring that kapu (prohibited) and environmentally sensitive contexts are protected from visitor traffic;

(E) Positioning local business owners and entrepreneurs in the economic value chain to ensure more meaningful visitor and resident engagement as well as economic benefit to local communities; and

(F) Acknowledging and, where appropriate, protecting Native Hawaiian cultural intellectual property, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions that contribute to Hawaii's economy;

(10) Apply innovative financial policies as well as data collection and analysis to incentivize and facilitate a shift to a regenerative visitor industry that has a smaller ecological footprint by implementing policies such as decreasing the impacts on beaches, reefs, and ocean life, and that aims to sustain and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's people by implementing policies such as decreasing the impacts of transient



accommodations, vacation rentals, bed and breakfast
operations, and rental cars;

(11) Target markets that have a high probability of
alignment with the goal of cultivating a regenerative
visitor industry;

(12) Actively support and encourage other economic sectors
and clusters to reduce the State's dependence on
tourism to support Hawaii's overall economic
prosperity;

(13) Minimize negative economic, environmental, and social
impacts to the State;

(14) Generate greater economic benefits for Hawaii's
people, enhance the well-being of Hawaii's indigenous
communities, and improve the working conditions of and
access to the visitor industry;

(15) Involve Hawaii's people in decisions that affect their
lives and life changes;

(16) Make positive contributions to the conservation of
natural and cultural heritage for the maintenance of
Hawaii's diversity;



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- 1 (17) Provide more enjoyable experiences and a greater
2 understanding of local cultural, social, and
3 environmental issues for visitors through more
4 meaningful connections with Hawaii's people; and
5 (18) Provide equitable access for individuals with
6 disabilities and sociologically disadvantaged people
7 that is culturally sensitive, engenders respect
8 between visitors and Hawaii's people, and builds pride
9 and confidence in Hawaii."

10 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

13 INTRODUCED BY:

Lyn DeCristo



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Report Title:

Tourism; HTA; Powers; Administration

Description:

Exempts all positions within the Hawaii Tourism Authority from the state civil service law. Provides that the powers described in section 201B-3, HRS, shall be granted to the Hawaii Tourism Authority except as otherwise provided by law. Amends the definition of "convention center facility" for purposes of chapter 201B, HRS. Amends the eligibility requirements to serve on the Hawaii Tourism Authority board of directors.

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

