S.B. NO. 766

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. In the interests of quickly effectuating the 2 setting aside of public lands between state departments and 3 agencies and the conservation of government resources, the 4 purpose of this Act is to provide that a survey of the land to 5 be set aside shall not be a condition precedent to the setting 6 aside of public lands to any department or agency of the State. 7 SECTION 2. Section 171-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows: 8 9 "§171-11 Public purposes, lands set aside by the governor;

10 management. The governor may, with the prior approval of the 11 board of land and natural resources, set aside public lands to 12 any department or agency of the State, the city and county, 13 county, or other political subdivisions of the State for public 14 use or purpose. All withdrawals of the lands or portions 15 thereof so set aside shall be made by the governor.

16 Any public lands set aside by the governor prior to the 17 enactment of this chapter, or any public lands set aside by the

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governor of the Territory of Hawaii, shall be subject to the
provisions of this section.

3 Lands while so set aside for such use or purpose or when 4 acquired for roads and streets shall be managed by the 5 department, agency, city and county, county, or other political 6 subdivisions of the State having jurisdiction thereof, unless 7 otherwise provided by law. Such department, agency of the State, the city and county, county, or other political 8 9 subdivisions of the State in managing such lands shall be 10 authorized to exercise all of the powers vested in the board in 11 regard to the issuance of leases, easements, licenses, revocable 12 permits, concessions, or rights of entry covering such lands for 13 such use as may be consistent with the purposes for which the 14 lands were set aside on the same terms, conditions, and 15 restrictions applicable to the disposition of public lands, as 16 provided by this chapter all such dispositions being subject to 17 the prior approval of the board; provided that any nonrenewable dispositions granting rights for a period not in excess of 18 19 fourteen days shall not require (1) the approval of the board or 20 (2) public auction or public advertisement for sealed tenders; 21 and provided further that disposition of lands set aside for use

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1	as agricultural parks pursuant to chapter 166 shall not be
2	subject to the prior approval of the board. If at the time of
3	the disposition of any such leases the board shall have approved
4	the same, any order withdrawing or setting aside any or all of
5	such lands for any other public purpose shall be made subject to
6	such leases. Subject to section 5(f) of the Act of March 18,
7	1959 (73 Stat. 6), all proceeds from such lands shall be
8	deposited into the appropriate funds provided by law.
9	A survey of the land to be set aside shall not be a
10	condition precedent to set aside public lands to a department or
11	agency of the State; provided that a subsequent survey of the
12	land set aside shall be binding if ratified by the board of land
13	and natural resources and the governor; provided further that
14	the State, its departments and agencies, and its officials and
15	employees shall be immune from all suits of whatever character,
16	whether sounding in law or in equity, relating to the boundaries
17	of land set aside without a survey.
18	This section shall also apply where the purposes are the
19	uses and purposes of the United States; provided that all

20 revenues derived from the lands and improvements thereon shall

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be paid to the department of land and natural resources by the
United States.

3 Whenever lands set aside for a public purpose to the 4 various departments and agencies of the State, or to any city 5 and county, county, or other political subdivisions of the 6 State, or to the United States, are not being utilized or 7 required for the public purpose stated, the order setting aside 8 the lands shall be withdrawn and the lands shall be returned to 9 the department. The governor may withdraw public lands and, 10 with the prior approval of the board of land and natural 11 resources, set aside the withdrawn lands to another department 12 or agency of the State, the city and county, county, or 13 political subdivision of the State, or to the United States for 14 public use or purpose, provided that no structure on such lands 15 shall be built, demolished or altered until after the 16 legislative action or inaction as hereinbelow provided.

17 The power granted to the governor in this section to set 18 aside or withdraw or withdraw and set aside public lands shall 19 be exercised subject to disapproval by the legislature by two-20 thirds vote of either the senate or the house of representatives 21 or by the majority vote of both, in any regular or special

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session next following the date of the setting aside or
withdrawal, or withdrawal and setting aside.

3 Whenever portions of lands set aside for a public purpose 4 to the various departments and agencies of the State, or to any 5 city and county, county, or other political subdivision of the State are not presently utilized or required for the public 6 7 purpose stated, the board shall have the power, without 8 withdrawing the order setting aside the lands, to dispose of any 9 and all real property interest less than the fee in the portions 10 of such lands where the disposition is for a use which is 11 consistent or inconsistent with the purpose for which the land 12 was set aside. All funds derived from disposition by the board 13 shall be deposited in the general fund of the State or be paid 14 to the appropriate account; provided that all such dispositions 15 shall be with the prior written approval of the department, 16 agency, city and county, county, or other political subdivisions 17 of the State and the governor, and shall be undertaken in 18 compliance with all other applicable sections of this chapter." 19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored. 20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: thet. Rectured to



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Report Title:

Public Lands; Lands Set Aside

Description:

Provides that a survey of the land to be set aside shall not be a condition precedent to the setting aside of public lands to any department or agency of the State.

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