
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's natural and
2 cultural resources--its beaches, reefs, forests, streams, unique
3 ecosystems, and cultural landscapes--form the foundation of the
4 State's identity, economy, and overall well-being. An
5 increasing volume of tourism places significant pressure on the
6 very resources that sustain the people and environment of the
7 islands. In response, the State established a "green fee", an
8 increase in the transient accommodations tax and a new
9 imposition of taxes on cruise fares, to mitigate the impacts of
10 tourism and climate change and to support environmental
11 protection, ecosystem restoration, natural resource management,
12 and destination management throughout Hawaii, through the
13 enactment of Act 96, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025.

14 The legislature further finds that the green fee represents
15 a transformative opportunity to ensure that those who enjoy
16 Hawaii's natural resources also contribute to their care.
17 Revenues generated by the fee are intended to support projects



1 such as invasive species removal, coral reef restoration, beach
2 nourishment, cultural site protection, watershed management,
3 enhancements to visitor experience, and resilience against
4 climate change impacts. To maximize the effectiveness of these
5 funds and maintain public confidence in their use, transparency,
6 oversight, and accountability are essential.

7 The legislature also finds that multiple state agencies
8 will receive green-fee-supported appropriations for projects
9 across the islands. These agencies include but are not limited
10 to those overseeing land and natural resources, state parks,
11 transportation, agriculture, climate resilience, and wastewater
12 and stormwater infrastructure. While each agency plays a
13 critical role in stewarding Hawaii's environment, the public
14 currently lacks a comprehensive, centralized, and easily
15 accessible source of information about how green fee revenues
16 are allocated, obligated, and expended.

17 The legislature additionally finds that Hawaii's public
18 trust responsibilities, as articulated in the Hawaii State
19 Constitution, impose an affirmative duty upon the State to
20 protect and maintain natural resources for present and future
21 generations. Ensuring transparent and responsible use of the



1 green fee aligns with this duty by allowing residents, visitors,
2 policymakers, and stakeholders to track these environmental
3 investments, monitor project progress, and evaluate whether
4 expenditures are achieving their intended environmental
5 outcomes.

6 Furthermore, the legislature finds that establishing a
7 statewide green fee resiliency impact dashboard would support
8 informed decision-making; promote fiscal responsibility; enhance
9 collaboration across agencies; enable real-time public insight
10 into project performance; and strengthen trust in the
11 stewardship of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. The
12 dashboard would consolidate data, standardize reporting, and
13 provide clear narratives and metrics illustrating how revenues
14 are used, where projects are located, and what environmental
15 benefits are being realized.

16 The legislature concludes that immediate action is
17 necessary to establish a publicly accessible, regularly updated
18 transparency platform that reflects the State's commitment to
19 accountability, responsible resource management, and the long-
20 term health of Hawaii's environment.



1 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish a green
2 fee transparency and accountability program and green fee
3 resiliency impact dashboard, to be administered by the Hawaii
4 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission.

5 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
7 as follows:

"CHAPTER

GREEN FEE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY : PROGRAM: DASHBOARD

10 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
11 context clearly requires otherwise:

12 "Agency" means any department, board, commission, bureau,
13 office, or other administrative unit of the State or a county
14 that receives, expends, or manages green fee revenues.

15 "Commission" means the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
16 adaptation commission established by section 225P-3.

17 "County" includes the city and county of Honolulu, county
18 of Hawaii, county of Kauai, and county of Maui.

19 "Dashboard" means the online, public-facing, interactive
20 green fee resiliency impact dashboard established by
21 section -2.



1 "Green fee" and "green fee revenues" means the revenue
2 collected pursuant to Act 96, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, for
3 the purposes of environmental protection, natural resource
4 restoration, climate adaptation, and other related uses as
5 provided by law.

6 "Program" means the green fee transparency and
7 accountability program established by section -2.

8 **§ -2 Green fee transparency and accountability program;**
9 **dashboard; establishment.** (a) There is established within the
10 commission the green fee transparency and accountability
11 program. The program shall be administered by a green fee
12 transparency and accountability coordinator, who shall be
13 appointed by the commission without regard to chapter 76 and
14 placed within the office of the chairperson of the board of land
15 and natural resources.

16 (b) The program shall:

17 (1) Develop, implement, and maintain an online, public-
18 facing, interactive green fee resiliency impact
19 dashboard that provides clear, timely, and
20 standardized information on:



1 (A) Annual and cumulative green fee revenues
2 collected;
3 (B) Allocations and appropriations by project,
4 program, and agency;
5 (C) Expenditures and obligations, including project-
6 level spending;
7 (D) Project descriptions, objectives, geographic
8 locations, timelines, and performance indicators;
9 and
10 (E) Environmental, economic, cultural, tourism, or
11 climate-resilience outcomes associated with
12 funded activities;

13 (2) Establish uniform reporting requirements and data-
14 submission standards for all agencies receiving or
15 expending green fee revenues;

16 (3) Coordinate with agencies to ensure accurate, complete,
17 and timely transmission of expenditure information,
18 project status updates, and performance metrics;

19 (4) Provide an annual public summary of project categories
20 funded by green fee revenues, including assessments of



1 effectiveness, gaps, and opportunities for

2 improvement; and

3 (5) Conduct statewide public outreach and education to

4 increase awareness of how green fee revenues support

5 environmental protection and climate resilience.

6 **§ -3 Cooperation by state and county agencies.** Any
7 agency that receives, administers, or expends green fee revenues
8 shall provide any information, data, reports, or documentation
9 requested by the commission or the program within thirty
10 calendar days of the request; provided that the commission may
11 grant extensions, as needed.

12 **§ -4 Annual report.** No later than December 1 of each
13 year, beginning in 2026, the commission shall submit to the
14 legislature, governor, and mayor of each county a report
15 summarizing:

16 (1) The commission's activities under this chapter;

17 (2) Updates and enhancements to the dashboard;

18 (3) Green fee revenue allocations and expenditures during

19 the prior fiscal year; and

20 (4) Outcomes and performance measures for projects funded

21 with green fee revenues."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
4 the development, implementation, and maintenance of the green
5 fee resiliency impact dashboard established by section 2 of this
6 Act.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
8 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission for the
9 purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

11

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2026



H.B. NO. 1949

Report Title:

Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program; Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard; Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, to be administered by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Appropriates funds.

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