

JAN 21 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE COUNTIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the counties manage  
2 and control public lands within their jurisdictions, including  
3 lands of great natural, cultural, and recreational significance.  
4 These lands are used by residents and visitors and are essential  
5 to the public's enjoyment, health, and welfare.

6 The legislature further finds that circumstances sometimes  
7 require the temporary or permanent closure or restriction of  
8 public access to these lands. These circumstances may include  
9 natural disasters, hazardous conditions, wildfire risks,  
10 erosion, flooding, cultural site preservation, public  
11 sanitation, and other threats to public health or safety.

12 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the counties to  
13 restrict or close public lands under the county's jurisdiction  
14 when necessary to protect public health, ensure public safety,  
15 or preserve natural or cultural resources.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 46, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
2 by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 **"\$46- Closure or restriction of public use of**  
5 **county-controlled property.** (a) Each county, or the county's  
6 authorized representative, may close or restrict the public use  
7 of any property under the county's management or control when  
8 necessary to protect public health, ensure public safety, or  
9 preserve natural or cultural resources.

10 (b) Closures or restrictions under this section may  
11 include the temporary or permanent:  
12 (1) Denial of access to specific areas;  
13 (2) Imposition or modification of hours of operation;  
14 (3) Prohibition or limitation of specified activities; or  
15 (4) Establishment of conditions for entry or use.  
16 (c) The county shall give public notice of any closure or  
17 restriction imposed under this section in a manner reasonably  
18 calculated to inform the public, including the posting of  
19 appropriate signs at or near the affected property, publication  
20 on the county's official website, or by other reasonable means  
21 as determined by the county.

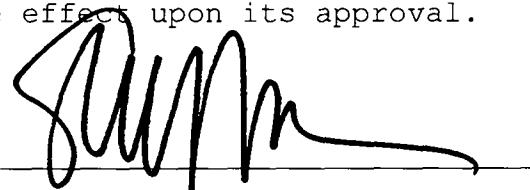


1       (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit  
2       the authority of the county to close or restrict access for  
3       other lawful reasons or under any other provisions of law."

4       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 2363

**Report Title:**

Counties; Public Lands; Closure

**Description:**

Authorizes the counties to close public lands when necessary to protect public health, ensure public safety, or preserve natural or cultural resources.

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

