

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DESTINATION MANAGEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
2 adding a new chapter to title 12 to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 **"CHAPTER**

5 **DESTINATION MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS**

6 **§ -1 Definition.** As used in this chapter, "department"  
7 means the department of land and natural resources.

8 **§ -2 Destination management action plans; development**  
9 **and updates.** (a) The department shall develop the following  
10 destination management action plans:

- 11 (1) The Oahu destination management action plan, which  
12 shall cover the city and county of Honolulu;
- 13 (2) The Maui Nui destination management action plan, which  
14 shall cover the county of Maui;
- 15 (3) The Hawaii island destination management action plan,  
16 which shall cover the county of Hawaii; and



- 1 (4) The Kauai destination management action plan, which  
2 shall cover the county of Kauai.

3 (b) Each destination management action plan shall:

4 (1) Be updated at least once every three years;

5 (2) Be developed and updated collaboratively in a  
6 coordinated process with public, private, and  
7 community stakeholders; and

8 (3) Address the management of the various elements of a  
9 visitor destination to:

10 (A) Create, implement, and monitor strategies that  
11 attract targeted visitor markets and improve  
12 visitor experiences;

13 (B) Improve natural and cultural resources valued by  
14 Hawaii residents and visitors;

15 (C) Develop and maintain tourism-related  
16 infrastructure to prevent overcrowding and  
17 overtaxing sites and resources; and

18 (D) Ensure that the provision of services enhances  
19 the visitor experience.

**21 objectives; execution.** To meet the destination management



1 objectives for each county, the department shall perform the  
2 actions specified in each of the destination management action  
3 plans described in section -1(a), during the phases specified  
4 in each plan; provided that applicable state and county agencies  
5 shall cooperate and participate in the execution of each  
6 destination management action plan.

7 **S -4 General powers.** The department may:

- 8 (1) Enter into contracts and agreements to develop and  
9 implement destination management action plans; and  
10 (2) Perform any other activities necessary to carry out  
11 the intent of this chapter."

12 SECTION 2. Section 26-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

14 "(b) The department shall manage and administer the public  
15 lands of the State and minerals thereon and all water and  
16 coastal areas of the State except the commercial harbor areas of  
17 the State, including the soil conservation function, the forests  
18 and forest reserves, aquatic life, wildlife resources, state  
19 parks, including historic sites, and all activities thereon and  
20 therein including[~~, but not limited to,~~] boating, ocean



1 recreation, [and] coastal areas programs~~[-]~~, and activities  
2 relating to destination management action plans."

3 SECTION 3. Section 201B-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

5 "(a) The authority shall be responsible for developing a  
6 strategic tourism management plan that advances tourism  
7 marketing, complies with destination management best practices,  
8 and promotes regenerative tourism. The plan shall be a single,  
9 comprehensive document that shall be updated every year and  
10 include the following:

- 11 (1) Statewide Hawaii brand management efforts and  
12 programs;
- 13 (2) Targeted markets;
- 14 (3) Efforts to enter into Hawaii brand management projects  
15 that make effective use of cooperative programs;
- 16 (4) Program performance goals and targets that can be  
17 monitored as market gauges and used as attributes to  
18 evaluate the authority's programs;
- 19 (5) The authority's guidance and direction for the  
20 development and coordination of promotional and  
21 marketing programs that build and promote the Hawaii



brand, which are implemented through contracts and agreements with destination marketing organizations or other qualified organizations, including:

- (A) Target markets and the results being sought;
- (B) Key performance indicators; and
- (C) Private sector collaborative or cooperative efforts that may be required; and

(6) Statewide [destination management and] regenerative tourism efforts and programs."

10 SECTION 4. Section 201B-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

12         "(a) The authority may enter into contracts and agreements  
13 that include the following:

14 (1) Tourism promotion, marketing, and development [~~, and~~  
15 ~~destination management~~];

16 (2) Market development-related research;

17 (3) Product development and diversification issues focused

18 on visitors:

19 (4) Promotion, development, and coordination of festivals,  
20 community events, cultural activities, environmental  
21 stewardship activities, sports-related activities, and



- 1           events that strengthen the relationships between the  
2           place and people for Hawaii's residents and visitors  
3           alike;
- 4       (5) Promotion of Hawaii, through a coordinated statewide  
5           effort, as a place to do business, including high  
6           technology business, and as a business destination;
- 7       (6) Reduction of barriers to travel;
- 8       (7) Marketing, management, use, operation, or maintenance  
9           of the convention center facility, including the  
10          purchase or sale of goods or services, logo items,  
11          concessions, sponsorships, and license agreements, or  
12          any use of the convention center facility as a  
13          commercial enterprise; provided that effective January  
14          1, 2020, and thereafter, contracts issued pursuant to  
15          this paragraph for the marketing of all uses of the  
16          convention center facility may be issued separately  
17          from the management, use, operation, or maintenance of  
18          the facility;
- 19       (8) Tourism research and statistics to:  
20           (A) Measure and analyze tourism trends;





1 the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and  
2 president of the senate.

3 (b) The authority shall be responsible for:

4 (1) Creating a vision and developing a long-range  
5 strategic plan for tourism in Hawaii;

6 ~~(+2) Developing destination management action plans for  
7 each county;~~

8 ~~(+3)~~ (2) Promoting, marketing, and developing the tourism  
9 industry in the State;

10 ~~(+4)~~ (3) Arranging for the conduct of research through  
11 contractual services with the University of Hawaii or  
12 any agency or other qualified persons concerning  
13 social, economic, and environmental aspects of tourism  
14 development in the State;

15 ~~(+5)~~ (4) Providing technical or other assistance to  
16 agencies and private industry upon request; and

17 ~~(+6)~~ (5) Reviewing annually the expenditure of public  
18 funds by any visitor industry organization that  
19 contracts with the authority to perform tourism  
20 promotion, marketing, and development and making



1                   recommendations necessary to ensure the effective use  
2                   of the funds for the development of tourism."

3                   SECTION 5. Section 201B-6.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4                   repealed.

5                   ["~~S201B-6.4~~ Destination management action plans;  
6                   ~~counties, objectives, execution~~. To meet the destination  
7                   management objectives for each county, the authority shall  
8                   perform the actions specified in each of the following plans:  
9                   (1) ~~Oahu destination management action plan~~;  
10                   (2) ~~Maui nui destination management action plan~~;  
11                   (3) ~~Hawaii island destination management action plan~~; and  
12                   (4) ~~Kauai destination management action plan~~,  
13                   during the specified phases; provided that the execution of each  
14                   destination management action plan shall be dependent on the  
15                   cooperation and participation of the applicable state or county  
16                   agency or an advisory group established pursuant to section  
17                   201B-13.]

18                   SECTION 6. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of  
19                   the Hawaii tourism authority relating to the development and  
20                   implementation of destination management action plans are  
21                   transferred to the department of land and natural resources.



1        All employees who occupy civil service positions and whose  
2        functions are transferred to the department of land and natural  
3        resources by this Act shall retain their civil service status,  
4        whether permanent or temporary. Employees shall be transferred  
5        without loss of salary, seniority (except as prescribed by  
6        applicable collective bargaining agreements), retention points,  
7        prior service credit, any vacation and sick leave credits  
8        previously earned, and other rights, benefits, and privileges,  
9        in accordance with state personnel laws and this Act; provided  
10      that the employees possess the minimum qualifications and public  
11      employment requirements for the class or position to which  
12      transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided further that  
13      subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to applicable  
14      civil service and compensation laws.

15       Any employee who, prior to this Act, is exempt from civil  
16      service and is transferred as a consequence of this Act may  
17      retain the employee's exempt status, but shall not be appointed  
18      to a civil service position as a consequence of this Act. An  
19      exempt employee who is transferred by this Act shall not suffer  
20      any loss of prior service credit, vacation or sick leave credits  
21      previously earned, or other employee benefits or privileges as a



1 consequence of this Act; provided that the employees possess  
2 legal and public employment requirements for the position to  
3 which transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided further  
4 that subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to  
5 applicable employment and compensation laws. The chairperson of  
6 the board of land and natural resources may prescribe the duties  
7 and qualifications of these employees and fix their salaries  
8 without regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

9 SECTION 7. All appropriations, records, equipment,  
10 machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents,  
11 maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used,  
12 acquired, or held by the Hawaii tourism authority relating to  
13 the functions transferred to the department of land and natural  
14 resources shall be transferred with the functions to which they  
15 relate.

16 SECTION 8. All deeds, leases, contracts, loans,  
17 agreements, permits, or other documents executed or entered into  
18 by or on behalf of the Hawaii tourism authority, pursuant to the  
19 provisions of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, that are reenacted or  
20 made applicable to the department of land and natural resources  
21 by this Act shall remain in full force and effect. Upon the



1 effective date of this Act, every reference to the Hawaii  
2 tourism authority or the president and chief executive officer  
3 of the Hawaii tourism authority therein shall be construed as a  
4 reference to the department of land and natural resources or the  
5 chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, as  
6 appropriate.

7 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$7,923,883 or so much  
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
10 developing, updating, and executing destination management  
11 action plans.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
13 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

14 SECTION 10. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,050,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
17 destination management-related workforce development activities,  
18 including:

19 (1) Costs associated with dual credit or early college for  
20 tourism and hospitality workforce pathways;



9           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the workforce  
10   development branch of the department of education for the  
11   purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

**14** SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

15

INTRODUCED BY:

Dawn W. Doherty



# S.B. NO. 2807

**Report Title:**

Destination Management; Destination Management Action Plans; DLNR; HTA; DOE; Appropriations

**Description:**

Transfers functions relating to the preparation and implementation of destination management action plans from the Hawaii Tourism Authority to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop and implement destination management action plans. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Education's Workforce Development Branch for various destination management-related workforce development activities.

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

