

JAN 23 2026

S.B. NO. 2997

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the city and county  
2 of Honolulu has adopted ordinances and other requirements  
3 regarding the permitting of development projects within special  
4 districts, including Waikiki. The legislature further finds it  
5 unnecessary and redundant to require all proposals for any use  
6 within the Waikiki special district to undergo an environmental  
7 assessment pursuant to section 343-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

8       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to repeal the  
9 environmental assessment requirement for proposals within:

10       (1) A historic site as designated in the National Register  
11       or Hawaii Register, as provided for in the Historic  
12       Preservation Act of 1966, Public Law 89-665, or  
13       chapter 6E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; or

14       (2) The Waikiki special district.

15       SECTION 2. Section 343-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1       "(a) Except as otherwise provided, an environmental  
2 assessment shall be required for actions that:

3       (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of  
4 state or county funds, other than funds to be used for  
5 feasibility or planning studies for possible future  
6 programs or projects that the agency has not approved,  
7 adopted, or funded, or funds to be used for the  
8 acquisition of unimproved real property; provided that  
9 the agency shall consider environmental factors and  
10 available alternatives in its feasibility or planning  
11 studies; provided further that an environmental  
12 assessment for proposed uses under  
13 section 205-2(d)(11) or 205-4.5(a)(13) shall only be  
14 required pursuant to section 205-5(b);

15       (2) Propose any use within any land classified as a  
16 conservation district by the state land use commission  
17 under chapter 205;

18       (3) Propose any use within a shoreline area as defined in  
19 section 205A-41;

20       ~~[(4) Propose any use within any historic site as designated~~  
21 ~~in the National Register or Hawaii Register, as~~



~~provided for in the Historic Preservation Act of 1966,~~  
~~Public Law 89-665, or chapter 6E;~~

~~(5) Propose any use within the Waikiki area of Oahu, the~~  
~~boundaries of which are delineated in the land use~~  
~~ordinance as amended, establishing the "Waikiki~~  
~~Special District";~~

~~(6)]~~ (4) Propose any amendments to existing county general  
plans where the amendment would result in designations  
other than agriculture, conservation, or preservation,  
except actions proposing any new county general plan  
or amendments to any existing county general plan  
initiated by a county;

~~[(7)]~~ (5) Propose any reclassification of any land  
classified as a conservation district by the state  
land use commission under chapter 205;

~~[(8)]~~ (6) Propose the construction of new or the expansion  
or modification of existing helicopter facilities  
within the State, that by way of their activities, may  
affect:

(A) Any land classified as a conservation district by  
the state land use commission under chapter 205;



(B) A shoreline area as defined in section 205A-41;

or

(C) Any historic site as designated in the National Register or Hawaii Register, as provided for in the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Public Law 89-665, or chapter 6E; or until the statewide historic places inventory is completed, any historic site that is found by a field reconnaissance of the area affected by the helicopter facility and is under consideration for placement on the National Register or the Hawaii Register of Historic Places; and

~~(+9)~~ (7) Propose any:

(A) Wastewater treatment unit, except an individual wastewater system or a wastewater treatment unit serving fewer than fifty single-family dwellings or the equivalent;

(B) Waste-to-energy facility;

(C) Landfill;

(D) Oil refinery; or

(E) Power-generating facility."



1 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



# S.B. NO. 2997

**Report Title:**

Environmental Assessments; Historic Sites; Waikiki

**Description:**

Removes historic sites and the Waikiki special district from the requirement for environmental assessments under section 343-5, HRS.

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

