

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PROCUREMENT PROTESTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that construction costs
2 are increasing, due in part to prolonged protests during the
3 procurement process. To address this issue, the legislature
4 enacted:

5 (1) Act 224, Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, which increased
6 the amount of cash or protest bond required to
7 initiate an administrative proceeding from one-half
8 per cent to one per cent of the estimated value of the
9 contract; and

10 (2) Act 162, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, which provided
11 for the return of the cash or protest bond to the
12 initiating party, less administrative costs, unless
13 the initiating party does not prevail and the claim is
14 determined to be frivolous or made in bad faith.

15 To expedite the construction of projects and minimize
16 delays due to protest claims, the legislature further finds that
17 it would be in the best interests of the State for the cash or



1 protest bond, less administrative costs, to be deposited into
2 the general fund in all cases where the initiating party does
3 not prevail.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require the
5 forfeiture of the cash or protest bond in an administrative
6 proceeding if an initiating party does not prevail.

7 SECTION 2. Section 103D-709, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

9 "(e) The party initiating a proceeding falling within
10 subsection (d) shall pay to the department of commerce and
11 consumer affairs a cash or protest bond in the amount of one per
12 cent of the estimated value of the contract.

13 The cash or protest bond shall be returned to that party,
14 minus administrative costs as determined by the office of
15 administrative hearings of the department of commerce and
16 consumer affairs; provided that full forfeiture of the cash or
17 protest bond shall occur if the initiating party does not
18 prevail in the administrative proceeding ~~[and the office of~~
19 ~~administrative hearings finds that the appeal was frivolous or~~
20 ~~made in bad faith]~~, in which case the cash or protest bond shall
21 be deposited into the general fund."



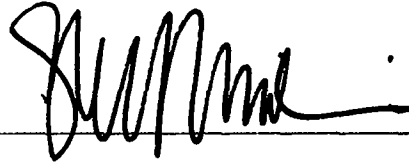
1 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

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

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

7

INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 3249

Report Title:

Procurement; Protests; Administrative Proceedings; Cash or
Protest Bonds; Forfeiture

Description:

Requires the forfeiture of cash or protest bond in an
administrative proceeding for review of procurement-related
disputes if the initiating party does not prevail.

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

