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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State is  
2 entering a period of fiscal uncertainty marked by slowing  
3 revenue growth, reductions in federal support, rising costs of  
4 government operations, and increasing demands on limited public  
5 resources. Given these circumstances, prudent stewardship of  
6 taxpayer funds requires discipline, restraint, and careful  
7 prioritization of expenditures.

8 The legislature further finds that state-funded travel for  
9 conferences, forums, and professional development, while often  
10 beneficial, must be closely scrutinized to ensure that it is  
11 essential, cost-effective, and aligned with the State's highest  
12 priorities.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to emphasize  
14 efficiency, accountability, and resourcefulness in the use of  
15 public funds during austere fiscal times by imposing a two-year  
16 moratorium on discretionary state-funded travel, with certain  
17 narrowly tailored exceptions.



1 SECTION 2. State-funded travel moratorium established.

2 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, no state agency

3 shall expend state funds for out-of-state or inter-island travel

4 for conferences, conventions, forums, workshops, or similar

5 discretionary activities, except as provided in subsection (b).

6 (b) The state-funded travel moratorium shall not apply to:

7 (1) Mandatory work-related travel, including but not

8 limited to travel for:

9 (A) Court-ordered appearances;

10 (B) Federal compliance, regulatory requirements, or

11 certification;

12 (C) Collective bargaining obligations;

13 (D) Emergency response, public safety, or

14 disaster-related activities; and

15 (E) Regularly scheduled administrative meetings; or

16 (2) Travel required for professional development,

17 training, conferences, forums, or employee

18 recruitment; provided that:

19 (A) Not more than three trips pursuant to this

20 paragraph shall be approved per employee per

21 fiscal year;



1 (B) Not more than three employees shall attend any  
2 trip approved pursuant to this paragraph;

3 (C) Each trip approved pursuant to this paragraph  
4 shall be directly related to a high-priority  
5 state function, including but not limited to:  
6 (i) Public safety;  
7 (ii) Education and workforce development;  
8 (iii) Health care and medicaid administration;  
9 (iv) Critical infrastructure; and  
10 (v) Fiscal management, auditing, or compliance;  
11 and

12 (D) The appropriate state agency demonstrates that  
13 the training, conference, forum, or employee  
14 recruitment:  
15 (i) Cannot be effectively conducted remotely;  
16 and  
17 (ii) Provides a clear and measurable benefit to  
18 the State.

19 (c) All travel permitted pursuant to this section shall  
20 require written approval from the appropriate head of the state  
21 agency or the head's designee and shall certify that:



1 (1) The travel is essential to the state agency's mission;

2 (2) Costs have been minimized, including through the

**3** purchase of economy airfare and reasonable lodging;

4 and

5 (3) Remote participation alternatives were evaluated and

6 found to be insufficient.

7 (d) Each state agency shall maintain records of all travel

8 approved pursuant to this Act and make the records available

9 upon request to the legislature or auditor.

**10** (e) The department of accounting and general services may

**11** adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or

**12** issue guidance to implement this Act, including rules

13 establishing standardized reporting formats and approval

## 14 documentation.

**15** (f) Each state agency shall submit an annual report of its

16 state-funded travel to the senate standing committee on ways and

17 means and house standing committee on finance no later than

**18** thirty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of

**19** 2027 and 2028. Each report submitted shall include:

**20** (1) The number of trips approved pursuant to this Act;

**21** (2) The purpose and location of each trip;





1 interest of public accountability of the use of public  
2 funds by state agencies.

- 10 (1) The judiciary and its staff;
- 11 (2) The legislature, its committees, and its staff;
- 12 (3) The governor and the governor's staff; or
- 13 (4) The lieutenant governor and the lieutenant governor's
- 14 staff.

**15** SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval  
**16** and shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Donna Mercado



# S.B. NO. 3332

**Report Title:**

DAGS; State Agencies; State-Funded Travel Moratorium; Rules; Reports

**Description:**

Establishes a two-year state-funded travel moratorium for certain state agencies, with certain exceptions. Permits the Department of Accounting and General Services to adopt rules. Requires reports to the Legislature. Sunsets 6/30/2028.

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

