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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE GREEN FEE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's natural and  
2 cultural resources--its beaches, reefs, forests, streams, unique  
3 ecosystems, and cultural landscapes--form the foundation of the  
4 State's identity, economy, and overall well-being. An  
5 increasing volume of tourism places significant pressure on the  
6 very resources that sustain the people and environment of the  
7 islands. In response, the State established a "green fee", an  
8 increase in the transient accommodations tax and a new  
9 imposition of taxes on cruise fares, to mitigate the impacts of  
10 tourism and climate change and to support environmental  
11 protection, ecosystem restoration, natural resource management,  
12 and destination management throughout Hawaii, through the  
13 enactment of Act 96, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025.

14           The legislature further finds that the green fee represents  
15 a transformative opportunity to ensure that those who enjoy  
16 Hawaii's natural resources also contribute to their care.  
17 Revenues generated by the fee are intended to support projects



1 such as invasive species removal, coral reef restoration, beach  
2 nourishment, cultural site protection, watershed management,  
3 enhancements to visitor experience, and resilience against  
4 climate change impacts. To maximize the effectiveness of these  
5 funds and maintain public confidence in their use, transparency,  
6 oversight, and accountability are essential.

7       The legislature also finds that multiple state agencies  
8 will receive green-fee-supported appropriations for projects  
9 across the islands. These agencies include but are not limited  
10 to those overseeing land and natural resources, state parks,  
11 transportation, agriculture, climate resilience, and wastewater  
12 and stormwater infrastructure. While each agency plays a  
13 critical role in stewarding Hawaii's environment, the public  
14 currently lacks a comprehensive, centralized, and easily  
15 accessible source of information about how green fee revenues  
16 are allocated, obligated, and expended.

17       The legislature additionally finds that Hawaii's public  
18 trust responsibilities, as articulated in the Hawaii State  
19 Constitution, impose an affirmative duty upon the State to  
20 protect and maintain natural resources for present and future  
21 generations. Ensuring transparent and responsible use of the



1 green fee aligns with this duty by allowing residents, visitors,  
2 policymakers, and stakeholders to track these environmental  
3 investments, monitor project progress, and evaluate whether  
4 expenditures are achieving their intended environmental  
5 outcomes.

6 Furthermore, the legislature finds that establishing a  
7 statewide green fee resiliency impact dashboard would support  
8 informed decision-making; promote fiscal responsibility; enhance  
9 collaboration across agencies; enable real-time public insight  
10 into project performance; and strengthen trust in the  
11 stewardship of Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. The  
12 dashboard would consolidate data, standardize reporting, and  
13 provide clear narratives and metrics illustrating how revenues  
14 are used, where projects are located, and what environmental  
15 benefits are being realized.

16 The legislature concludes that immediate action is  
17 necessary to establish a publicly accessible, regularly updated  
18 transparency platform that reflects the State's commitment to  
19 accountability, responsible resource management, and the long-  
20 term health of Hawaii's environment.





1 "Green fee" and "green fee revenues" means the revenue  
2 collected pursuant to Act 96, Session Laws of Hawaii 2025, for  
3 the purposes of environmental protection, natural resource  
4 restoration, climate adaptation, and other related uses as  
5 provided by law.

6 "Program" means the green fee transparency and  
7 accountability program established by section -2.

8 **§ -2 Green fee transparency and accountability program;**  
9 **dashboard; establishment.** (a) There is established within the  
10 commission the green fee transparency and accountability  
11 program. The program shall be administered by a green fee  
12 transparency and accountability coordinator, who shall be  
13 appointed by the commission without regard to chapter 76 and  
14 placed within the office of the chairperson of the board of land  
15 and natural resources.

16 (b) The program shall:

17 (1) Develop, implement, and maintain an online, public-  
18 facing, interactive green fee resiliency impact  
19 dashboard that provides clear, timely, and  
20 standardized information on:



- 1 (A) Annual and cumulative green fee revenues
- 2 collected;
- 3 (B) Allocations and appropriations by project,
- 4 program, and agency;
- 5 (C) Expenditures and obligations, including project-
- 6 level spending;
- 7 (D) Project descriptions, objectives, geographic
- 8 locations, timelines, and performance indicators;
- 9 and
- 10 (E) Environmental, economic, cultural, tourism, or
- 11 climate-resilience outcomes associated with
- 12 funded activities;
- 13 (2) Establish uniform reporting requirements and data-
- 14 submission standards for all agencies receiving or
- 15 expending green fee revenues;
- 16 (3) Coordinate with agencies to ensure accurate, complete,
- 17 and timely transmission of expenditure information,
- 18 project status updates, and performance metrics; and
- 19 (4) Provide an annual public summary of project categories
- 20 funded by green fee revenues, including reporting on



1 effectiveness, gaps, and opportunities for  
2 improvement.

3 § -3 **Cooperation by state and county agencies.** Any  
4 agency that receives, administers, or expends green fee revenues  
5 shall provide any information, data, reports, or documentation  
6 requested by the commission or the program within thirty  
7 calendar days of the request; provided that the commission may  
8 grant extensions, as needed.

9 § -4 **Annual report.** No later than December 1 of each  
10 year beginning in 2026, the commission shall submit to the  
11 legislature, governor, and mayor of each county a report  
12 summarizing:

- 13 (1) The commission's activities under this chapter;  
14 (2) Updates and enhancements to the dashboard;  
15 (3) Green fee revenue allocations and expenditures during  
16 the prior fiscal year; and  
17 (4) Outcomes and performance measures for projects funded  
18 with green fee revenues."

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for



1 the development, implementation, and maintenance of the green  
2 fee resiliency impact dashboard established by section 2 of this  
3 Act.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
5 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission for the  
6 purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program; Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard; Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Green Fee Transparency and Accountability Program and Green Fee Resiliency Impact Dashboard, to be administered by the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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