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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that article XII of the  
2 Hawaii State Constitution recognizes Native Hawaiians as  
3 beneficiaries of the public land trust and establishes the  
4 office of Hawaiian affairs to manage and administer the pro rata  
5 share of income and proceeds derived from the public land trust  
6 for the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

7           The legislature has taken steps in recent years to clarify  
8 the pro rata share of income, including through the enactment of  
9 Act 226, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, which increased the  
10 interim annual transfer to the office of Hawaiian affairs and  
11 established the public land trust working group to develop  
12 recommendations regarding the calculation and administration of  
13 public land trust revenues.

14           The legislature also finds that Native Hawaiian-serving  
15 programs have experienced increased demand due to economic  
16 instability, rising costs of living, natural disasters, and  
17 reductions and uncertainty in federal funding, including funding



1 streams historically associated with diversity, equity, and  
2 inclusion initiatives. As federal programs have been reduced,  
3 delayed, or disrupted, the office of Hawaiian affairs has played  
4 an increasingly critical role in bridging gaps, including  
5 supporting Native Hawaiian families during periods of federal  
6 government shutdowns and other federal funding interruptions.

7 The legislature additionally finds that the office of  
8 Hawaiian affairs has demonstrated its capacity to responsibly  
9 deploy resources in coordination with federal, state, county,  
10 and community partners, and that temporarily increasing the cap  
11 on public land trust distributions will allow the office of  
12 Hawaiian affairs to continue providing stability and support to  
13 Native Hawaiian communities during a period of transition at the  
14 federal level.

15 The legislature further finds that the public land trust  
16 working group is currently engaged in its statutory  
17 responsibilities to review public land trust inventories,  
18 revenues, accounting practices, and governance structures, and  
19 that allowing additional time for this work to be completed will  
20 support the development of durable, long-term solutions  
21 consistent with the State's trust obligations.



1           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to provide stability  
2 and capacity for Native Hawaiian-serving programs during a  
3 period of federal funding uncertainty by temporarily increasing  
4 the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to  
5 the office of Hawaiian affairs with a repeal date that allows  
6 the legislature to consider future recommendations of the public  
7 land trust working group.

8           SECTION 2. (a) Notwithstanding Act 226, Session Laws of  
9 Hawaii 2022, for fiscal years beginning July 1, 2026, through  
10 June 30, 2028, the total annual amount transferred to the office  
11 of Hawaiian affairs from the public land trust shall be  
12 increased to \$                   .

13           (b) The increase authorized under subsection (a) shall be  
14 temporary and shall not be construed to limit, reduce, or waive  
15 the State's obligations beyond the repeal date established by  
16 section 3 of this Act.

17           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000, and  
18 shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.



**Report Title:**

OHA; Public Land Trust; Temporary Increase in Funding

**Description:**

Temporarily increases the total amount of public land trust revenues transferred to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Repeals 6/30/2028. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

