

JAN 30 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 37-79, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~{}~~§37-79~~{}~~ **Climate change and tourism destination**  
4 **management; maritime purposes and uses; projects; budget**  
5 **request.** requests. (a) The governor shall request, in the  
6 budget or the supplemental budget submitted to the legislature  
7 pursuant to section 37-71 or 37-72, that an amount of general  
8 funds that approximates the additional revenue generated by any  
9 increase to the transient accommodations tax rates pursuant to  
10 section 237D-2(a)(6) and (c)(4) beginning on January 1, 2026,  
11 and section 237D-2(e) beginning on July 1, 2026, ~~and by~~  
12 ~~assessment of the transient accommodations tax on gross rental~~  
13 ~~proceeds derived from cruise fares pursuant to section 237D-~~  
14 ~~2(a)]~~ be expended equally to advance specific projects to:

15 (1) Protect, manage, and restore the State's natural  
16 resources, including native forests, native plants and



1 animals, aquatic resources, coastal lands, and  
2 freshwater resources;

3 (2) Increase the resilience of structures and  
4 infrastructure to natural and climate-related  
5 disasters, such as hurricanes and sea level rise, and  
6 perform hazard mitigation activities, such as wildfire  
7 and flood mitigation; and

8 (3) Improve the visitor experience, mitigate the impacts  
9 of tourism on the natural environment, ensure that the  
10 State's natural resources are maintained for future  
11 residents and visitors, and support destination  
12 management, such as park improvements and beach  
13 improvement, nourishment, and maintenance projects.

14 (b) The governor shall request, in the budget or the  
15 supplemental budget submitted to the legislature pursuant to  
16 section 37-71 or 37-72, that an amount of general funds that  
17 approximates the additional revenue generated by the assessment  
18 of the transient accommodations tax on gross rental proceeds  
19 derived from cruise fares pursuant to section 237D-2(a) be  
20 expended for maritime purposes and uses, including:



- 1        (1) Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants
- 2            through increased shore power connectivity;
- 3        (2) Mitigating and adapting to sea level rise in the
- 4            State's harbors;
- 5        (3) Increasing the resilience of maritime structures and
- 6            infrastructure; and
- 7        (4) Addressing maritime environmental issues, as
- 8            determined by the department of transportation."

9            SECTION 2. Section 237D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by amending the definition of "cruise fare" to read as  
11 follows:

12            ""Cruise fare" means the [~~total~~] amount paid by a transient  
13 for a cruise ship cabin on a cruise ship[, ~~inclusive of any~~  
14 ~~mandatory fees imposed by a cruise ship operator, owner, or~~  
15 ~~representative thereof on a transient for the use of shipboard~~  
16 ~~services, facilities, meals, and onboard entertainment, but].  
17 "Cruise fare" does not include [~~optional~~] charges for shipboard  
18 services, facilities, meals, excursions, [~~and~~] onboard  
19 entertainment [~~beyond the mandatory fee amount.~~],  
20 transportation, and other ancillary fees."~~



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Louise A. Gonyea*



# S.B. NO. 3289

**Report Title:**

DOT; Governor; Transient Accommodations Tax; Cruise Ships;  
Cruise Fares; Budget Request; Maritime Purposes and Uses

**Description:**

Requires the Governor to request in the executive budget or supplemental budget that an amount of general funds that approximates the additional revenue generated by assessing the Transient Accommodations Tax on gross rental proceeds derived from cruise fares be expended for maritime purposes and uses, including addressing maritime environmental issues, as determined by the Department of Transportation, rather than be expended as part of the green fee. Amends the definition of "cruise fares" with respect to the Transient Accommodations Tax.

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