

ACT 239

H.B. NO. 1719

A Bill for an Act Relating to General Excise Tax.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 237-24.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“**§237-24.3 Additional amounts not taxable.** In addition to the amounts not taxable under section 237-24, this chapter shall not apply to:

- (1) Amounts received from the loading, transportation, and unloading of agricultural commodities shipped for a producer or produce dealer on one island of this State to a person, firm, or organization on another island of this State. The terms “agricultural commodity”, “producer”, and “produce dealer” shall be defined in the same manner as they are defined in section 147-1; provided that agricultural commodities need not have been produced in the State;
- (2) Amounts received from sales of:
 - (A) Intoxicating liquor as the term “liquor” is defined in chapter 244D;
 - (B) Cigarettes and tobacco products as defined in chapter 245; and
 - (C) Agricultural, meat, or fish products;to any person or common carrier in interstate or foreign commerce, or both, whether ocean-going or air, for consumption out-of-state on the shipper’s vessels or airplanes;
- (3) Amounts received by the manager, submanager, or board of directors of:
 - (A) An association of apartment owners of a condominium property regime established in accordance with chapter 514A or 514B; or

- (B) A nonprofit homeowners or community association incorporated in accordance with chapter 414D or any predecessor thereto and existing pursuant to covenants running with the land, in reimbursement of sums paid for common expenses;
- (4) Amounts received or accrued from:
 - (A) The loading or unloading of cargo from ships, barges, vessels, or aircraft, whether or not the ships, barges, vessels, or aircraft travel between the State and other states or countries or between the islands of the State;
 - (B) Tugboat services including pilotage fees performed within the State, and the towage of ships, barges, or vessels in and out of state harbors, or from one pier to another; and
 - (C) The transportation of pilots or governmental officials to ships, barges, or vessels offshore; rigging gear; checking freight and similar services; standby charges; and use of moorings and running mooring lines;
- (5) Amounts received by an employee benefit plan by way of contributions, dividends, interest, and other income; and amounts received by a nonprofit organization or office, as payments for costs and expenses incurred for the administration of an employee benefit plan; provided that this exemption shall not apply to any gross rental income or gross rental proceeds received after June 30, 1994, as income from investments in real property in this State; and provided further that gross rental income or gross rental proceeds from investments in real property received by an employee benefit plan after June 30, 1994, under written contracts executed prior to July 1, 1994, shall not be taxed until the contracts are renegotiated, renewed, or extended, or until after December 31, 1998, whichever is earlier. For the purposes of this paragraph, "employee benefit plan" means any plan as defined in section 1002(3) of title 29 of the United States Code, as amended;
- (6) Amounts received for purchases made with United States Department of Agriculture food coupons under the federal food stamp program, and amounts received for purchases made with United States Department of Agriculture food vouchers under the Special Supplemental Foods Program for Women, Infants and Children;
- (7) Amounts received by a hospital, infirmary, medical clinic, health care facility, pharmacy, or a practitioner licensed to administer the drug to an individual for selling prescription drugs or prosthetic devices to an individual; provided that this paragraph shall not apply to any amounts received for services provided in selling prescription drugs or prosthetic devices. As used in this paragraph:
 - [~~(A)~~] "Prescription drugs" are those drugs defined under section 328-1 and dispensed by filling or refilling a written or oral prescription by a practitioner licensed under law to administer the drug and sold by a licensed pharmacist under section 328-16 or practitioners licensed to administer drugs; and
 - [~~(B)~~] "Prosthetic device" means any artificial device or appliance, instrument, apparatus, or contrivance, including their components, parts, accessories, and replacements thereof, used to replace a missing or surgically removed part of the human body, which is prescribed by a licensed practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, or podiatry and which is sold by the practitioner or which is dispensed and sold by a dealer of prosthetic devices; provided that "prosthetic device" shall not mean

- any auditory, ophthalmic, dental, or ocular device or appliance, instrument, apparatus, or contrivance;
- (8) Taxes on transient accommodations imposed by chapter 237D and passed on and collected by operators holding certificates of registration under that chapter;
 - (9) Amounts received as dues by an unincorporated merchants association from its membership for advertising media, promotional, and advertising costs for the promotion of the association for the benefit of its members as a whole and not for the benefit of an individual member or group of members less than the entire membership;
 - (10) Amounts received by a labor organization for real property leased to:
 - (A) A labor organization; or
 - (B) A trust fund established by a labor organization for the benefit of its members, families, and dependents for medical or hospital care, pensions on retirement or death of employees, apprenticeship and training, and other membership service programs.

As used in this paragraph, "labor organization" means a labor organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended;
 - (11) Amounts received from foreign diplomats and consular officials who are holding cards issued or authorized by the United States Department of State granting them an exemption from state taxes; and
 - (12) Amounts received as rent for the rental or leasing of aircraft or aircraft engines used by the lessees or renters for interstate air transportation of passengers and goods. For purposes of this paragraph, payments made pursuant to a lease shall be considered rent regardless of whether the lease is an operating lease or a financing lease. The definition of "interstate air transportation" is the same as in 49 U.S.C. 40102."

SECTION 2. Section 237-24.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§237-24.7 Additional amounts not taxable. In addition to the amounts not taxable under section 237-24, this chapter shall not apply to:

- (1) Amounts received by the operator of a hotel from the owner of the hotel or from a timeshare association, and amounts received by the sub-operator of a hotel from the owner of the hotel, from a timeshare association, or from the operator of the hotel, in amounts equal to and which are disbursed by the operator or suboperator for employee wages, salaries, payroll taxes, insurance premiums, and benefits, including retirement, vacation, sick pay, and health benefits. As used in this paragraph:

"Employee" means employees directly engaged in the day-to-day operation of the hotel and employed by the operator[-] or sub-operator.

"Hotel" means an operation as defined in section 445-90[-] or a timeshare plan as defined in section 514E-1.

"Operator" means any person who, pursuant to a written contract with the owner of a hotel[-] or timeshare association, operates or manages the hotel for the owner[-] or timeshare association.

"Owner" means the fee owner or lessee under a recorded lease of a hotel[-].

“Suboperator” means any person who, pursuant to a written contract with the operator, operates or manages the hotel as a subcontractor of the operator.

“Timeshare association” means an “association” as that term is defined in section 514E-1;

- (2) Amounts received by the operator of a county transportation system operated under an operating contract with a political subdivision, where the political subdivision is the owner of the county transportation system. As used in this paragraph:

“County transportation system” means a mass transit system of motorized buses providing regularly scheduled transportation within a county.

“Operating contract” or “contract” means a contract to operate and manage a political subdivision’s county transportation system, which provides that:

- (A) The political subdivision shall exercise substantial control over all aspects of the operator’s operation;
- (B) The political subdivision controls the development of transit policy, service planning, routes, and fares; and
- (C) The operator develops in advance a draft budget in the same format as prescribed for agencies of the political subdivision. The budget must be subject to the same constraints and controls regarding the lawful expenditure of public funds as any public sector agency, and deviations from the budget must be subject to approval by the appropriate political subdivision officials involved in the budgetary process.

“Operator” means any person who, pursuant to an operating contract with a political subdivision, operates or manages a county transportation system.

“Owner” means a political subdivision that owns or is the lessee of all the properties and facilities of the county transportation system (including buses, real estate, parking garages, fuel pumps, maintenance equipment, office supplies, etc.), and that owns all revenues derived therefrom;

- (3) Surcharge taxes on rental motor vehicles imposed by chapter 251 and passed on and collected by persons holding certificates of registration under that chapter;
- (4) Amounts received by the operator of orchard properties from the owner of the orchard property in amounts equal to and which are disbursed by the operator for employee wages, salaries, payroll taxes, insurance premiums, and benefits, including retirement, vacation, sick pay, and health benefits. As used in this paragraph:

“Employee” means an employee directly engaged in the day-to-day operations of the orchard properties and employed by the operator.

“Operator” means a producer who, pursuant to a written contract with the owner of the orchard property, operates or manages the orchard property for the owner where the property contains an area sufficient to make the undertaking economically feasible.

“Orchard property” means any real property that is used to raise trees with a production life cycle of fifteen years or more producing fruits or nuts having a normal period of development from the initial planting to the first commercially saleable harvest of not less than three years.

“Owner” means a fee owner or lessee under a recorded lease of orchard property;

- (5) Taxes on nursing facility income imposed by chapter 346E and passed on and collected by operators of nursing facilities;
- (6) Amounts received under property and casualty insurance policies for damage or loss of inventory used in the conduct of a trade or business located within the State or a portion thereof that is declared a natural disaster area by the governor pursuant to section 209-2;
- (7) Amounts received as compensation by community organizations, school booster clubs, and nonprofit organizations under a contract with the chief election officer for the provision and compensation of precinct officials and other election-related personnel, services, and activities, pursuant to section 11-5;
- (8) Interest received by a person domiciled outside the State from a trust company (as defined in section 412:8-101) acting as payment agent or trustee on behalf of the issuer or payees of an interest bearing instrument or obligation, if the interest would not have been subject to tax under this chapter if paid directly to the person domiciled outside the State without the use of a paying agent or trustee; provided that if the interest would otherwise be taxable under this chapter if paid directly to the person domiciled outside the State, it shall not be exempt solely because of the use of a Hawaii trust company as a paying agent or trustee;
- (9) Amounts received by a management company from related entities engaged in the business of selling interstate or foreign common carrier telecommunications services in amounts equal to and which are disbursed by the management company for employee wages, salaries, payroll taxes, insurance premiums, and benefits, including retirement, vacation, sick pay, and health benefits. As used in this paragraph:

“Employee” means employees directly engaged in the day-to-day operation of related entities engaged in the business of selling interstate or foreign common carrier telecommunications services and employed by the management company.

“Management company” means any person who, pursuant to a written contract with a related entity engaged in the business of selling interstate or foreign common carrier telecommunications services, provides managerial or operational services to that entity.

“Related entities” means:

- (A) An affiliated group of corporations within the meaning of section 1504 (with respect to affiliated group defined) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- (B) A controlled group of corporations within the meaning of section 1563 (with respect to definitions and special rules) of the federal Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- (C) Those entities connected through ownership of at least eighty per cent of the total value and at least eighty per cent of the total voting power of each such entity (or combination thereof), including partnerships, associations, trusts, S corporations, nonprofit corporations, limited liability partnerships, or limited liability companies; and
- (D) Any group or combination of the entities described in paragraph (C) constituting a unitary business for income tax purposes;

- whether or not the entity is located within or without the State or licensed under this chapter; and
- (10) Amounts received as grants under section 206M-15.’’

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

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2008; provided that this Act shall be repealed on December 31, 2009, and section 237-24.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and section 237-24.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be reenacted in the form in which they read on December 31, 2007.

(Approved July 2, 2007.)