

JAN 19 2018

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VISITOR IMPACTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that an ever increasing
2 number of visitors can negatively impact the quality of life of
3 Hawaii residents by straining the State's infrastructure and
4 natural resources. The legislature further finds that, although
5 the Hawaii tourism authority advocates for a high quality
6 tourism experience and increased revenue generation by visitors
7 instead of increased numbers of visitors, the number of annual
8 visitors to the State has steadily risen over time. Between
9 2009 and 2016, the total number of annual visitors increased
10 every year, from 6,517,054 in 2009 to 8,821,802 in 2016, with
11 the number of annual visitors projected to reach 9,562,109 in
12 2018 and 9,847,610 in 2020.

13 The purpose of this Act is to support the State's tourism
14 industry by allocating an appropriate portion of the Hawaii
15 tourism authority's budget to the protection and enhancement of
16 the State's infrastructure and natural resources.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 201B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§201B- Hawaii tourism authority budget allocations.

5 (a) If, in any fiscal year:

6 (1) The total number of visitor arrivals to the State
7 exceeds ten million; or

8 (2) The total number of visitor arrivals to any county
9 exceeds 6,500,000,

10 fifteen per cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget,
11 including any transient accommodations tax revenues to be
12 allocated and expended pursuant to section 237D-6.5(b)(5), for
13 the following fiscal year shall be distributed pursuant to
14 subsection (c) to support public infrastructure and natural
15 resources.

16 (b) In addition to the distribution pursuant to subsection

17 (a), five per cent of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget,
18 multiplied by the greater of:

19 (1) The number of increments of 500,000 visitor arrivals
20 in excess of ten million visitor arrivals in the
21 State; or



1 (2) The number of increments of 125,000 visitor arrivals
2 in excess of 6,500,000 visitor arrivals in any county,
3 shall be distributed pursuant to subsection (c);
4 provided that the total distribution amount shall not
5 exceed forty-five per cent of the Hawaii tourism
6 authority's budget in that fiscal year.

7 (c) Moneys subject to distribution under subsections (a)
8 and (b) shall be distributed as follows:

9 (1) Fifty per cent shall be transferred to the general
10 fund of the State of Hawaii to be expended by the
11 department of land and natural resources to conserve
12 natural resources that are or may be affected by
13 increased numbers of visitors; and

14 (2) Fifty per cent shall be distributed among the counties
15 in proportion to the number of visitor arrivals in
16 each county, with individuals who visit multiple
17 counties counting as a visitor arrival in each county
18 visited, to be expended to develop and support
19 infrastructure that is or may be affected by increased
20 numbers of visitors."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 2446

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

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Ed Puccio

Karl Rhoad

Don E. P.

STG

Mike Lobbard

Randy Tuck

Jim

Spalding

Will Egan

[Signature]



S.B. NO. 2446

Report Title:

Hawaii Tourism Authority; Visitor Arrivals; Natural Resources;
Infrastructure

Description:

Requires that a percentage of the Hawaii tourism authority's budget be transferred to the department of land and natural resources and the counties if the number of visitor arrivals in the State exceeds ten million, or if the number of visitor arrivals in any county exceeds 6.5 million.

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

