A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INCREASED FUNDING FOR LAND CONSERVATION.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that "the value of Hawaii's natural resources to its economy, culture, and quality of life, but an alarmingly small amount of money is invested each year to protect our natural capital base" (Act 156, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005).

The legislature also finds that there is a clear nexus between the source of the conveyance tax and providing funding for land conservation. The development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas. Funding made available for land conservation should keep pace with escalating real estate prices and demand.

The purpose of this Act is to provide increased funding for land conservation by removing the annual dollar amount cap of the annual proceeds from the conveyance tax to the existing land acquisition fund established by Act 77, Session Laws of Hawaii

SECTION 2. Section 247-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§247-7 Disposition of taxes. All taxes collected under this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the general fund of the State, to be used and expended for the purposes for which the general fund was created and exists by law; provided that of the taxes collected each fiscal year:

(1) Ten percent [or $6,800,000, whichever is less] shall be paid into the land conservation fund established pursuant to section 173A-5; and

(2) Fifty per cent or $38,000,000, whichever is less, shall be paid into the rental housing revolving fund established by section 201H-202."

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY: ________________

BY REQUEST
JAN 22 2019
Report Title:
Land Conservation Fund; Conveyance Tax

Description:
Adjusts the proportion of conveyance tax revenues deposited into the Land Conservation Fund.

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

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INCREASED FUNDING LAND CONSERVATION.

PURPOSE: To adjust the proportion of conveyance tax revenues deposited into the Land Conservation Fund.

MEANS: Amend sections 247-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: There is a clear nexus between the source of the conveyance tax and providing funding for land conservation. The development, sale, and improvement of real estate in Hawaii adds additional pressure on natural areas, coastal access, agricultural production, and Hawaii's water resources and watershed recharge areas. Funding available for land conservation should keep pace with escalating real estate prices and demand.

The bill would increase funding available for land conservation acquisitions to protect natural, cultural, recreational, scenic, and agricultural resources by removing the annual dollar amount cap of the annual proceeds from the Conveyance Tax to the Land Conservation Fund.

Impact on the public: The bill would increase the amount of land available for public enjoyment and use.

Impact on the department and other agencies: The bill would increase funding for the Department and other agencies (particularly the four counties and the Department of Agriculture) to acquire interests in land for resource protection.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.
PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: LNR 101.

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Counties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019.