

H.B. NO. 914

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
2 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
3 the constitution of the State of Hawaii.

4 SECTION 2. The impact of the "SARS-CoV-2" virus and
5 resulting "coronavirus disease 2019" (COVID-19) has been
6 devastating to global, national, and state economies.

7 The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act
8 (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, was enacted on March 27, 2020,
9 to address the extensive health and economic fallout of the
10 COVID-19 pandemic and provided federal funds to support the
11 State's COVID-19 relief efforts. With the expiration of federal
12 CARES Act funds, the State finds that additional funds are
13 needed to continue funding critical COVID-19 response programs
14 and activities for the remainder of fiscal year 2020-2021.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
16 funds for the purpose of COVID-19 response activities and

1 provide transparency and accountability for the use of those
2 funds.


3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,500,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
6 Hawaii tourism authority in the department of business, economic
7 development and tourism; provided that \$3,000,000 of the
8 appropriation shall be used to reimburse the Hawaii convention
9 center for costs related to the use of the convention center for
10 unemployment insurance and contact tracing efforts; and provided
11 further that \$2,500,000 of the appropriation shall be used for
12 costs related to restarting airlift from Asia and Oceania to
13 Hawaii.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii
15 tourism authority for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. Provided that the governor is authorized to
17 transfer funds appropriated by this Act among all executive
18 agencies as may be deemed necessary; and provided further that
19 the governor is authorized to transfer funds in excess of what
20 is needed for the Hawaii tourism authority to the governor's
21 contingency fund as deemed necessary by the governor for the
22 purposes of this Act.
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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that all funds appropriated pursuant to this Act that
3 are unallotted or unencumbered shall lapse as of June 30, 2022.
4

5 INTRODUCED BY: 

6 BY REQUEST

7 JAN 25 2021

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1 **Report Title:**

2 Emergency Appropriations Relating to COVID-19

3 Expenditures

4

5 **Description:**

6 Provides an emergency appropriation in fiscal year 2020-2021 to

7 the Hawaii Tourism Authority for COVID-19 response related

8 programs and activities.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Business, Economic Development and Tourism

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY RELATING TO COVID-19 EXPENDITURES.

PURPOSE: To provide an emergency appropriation to the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) for fiscal year 2020-2021 to continue funding for various COVID-19 response related programs and activities.

MEANS: General fund appropriation to HTA.

JUSTIFICATION: The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to global, national, and state economies. Federal funds appropriated to the State of Hawaii by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, provided funding to implement and administer various COVID-19 related response, relief, and mitigation programs and activities.

The State finds that additional funds from the general revenues of the State are needed to continue funding critical COVID-19 response programs and activities.

Funding will be used for vital public health and safety, public welfare, economic recovery, and other appropriate COVID-19 response activities.

Impact on the public: This measure will have significant direct and indirect impacts on the public. The programs and activities funded by this measure will be used for such activities as continuation of: the State's Safe Travels Hawaii Program; COVID-19 related medical surge staffing; funding for vaccination and immunization implementation

and administration; personal protective equipment; and other public services as deemed necessary to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
Reimbursing the HTA for the use of the Hawaii Convention Center will help to offset the sharp loss of revenue to HTA due to decreased tourism and event bookings.

Additional funds will be used to assist in restarting tourism from foreign markets to Hawaii.

GENERAL FUND: Total general fund impact of this measure is \$5,500,000 for fiscal year 2020-2021.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: BED 113, Hawaii Tourism Authority.

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: All executive branch departments and agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.