
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE LAND CONSERVATION FUND.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 173A-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§173A-4 Authority to acquire and convey.** (a) In
4 consultation with the senate president and speaker of the house
5 of representatives, the board may acquire, by purchase, gift, or
6 the exercise of the power of eminent domain as authorized by
7 chapter 101, any land having value as a resource to the State.
8 Such acquisition is hereby declared to be for a public use.

9 (b) The board may, subject to chapter 171, in consultation
10 with the senate president and speaker of the house of
11 representatives, and with the approval of the governor, sell,
12 lease, or otherwise convey any such land subject to terms and
13 conditions that it deems appropriate and that will ensure that
14 the transferee shall not use the land in a manner that is
15 inconsistent with the purposes for which it was acquired by the
16 board. The terms and conditions shall run with the land and
17 shall be binding on the transferee's heirs, successors, and



1 assigns. The board may seek enforcement of the terms and
2 conditions in any court of appropriate jurisdiction.

3 (c) The board may, in consultation with the senate
4 president and the speaker of the house of representatives,
5 require as a condition of the receipt of funds that state,
6 county, and nonprofit land conservation organizations receiving
7 funds under this chapter provide a conservation easement under
8 chapter 198, or an agricultural easement or deed restriction or
9 covenant to an appropriate land conservation organization or
10 county, state, or federal natural resource conservation agency,
11 that shall run with the land and be recorded with the land to
12 ensure the long-term protection of land having value as a
13 resource to the State and preserve the interests of the State."

14 SECTION 2. Section 173A-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 **"§173A-5 Land conservation fund.** (a) A land conservation
17 fund, hereinafter called "fund", is hereby established.

18 (b) The proceeds from the sale of any general obligation
19 bonds[7] authorized and issued for purposes of this chapter[7]
20 shall be deposited in or credited to the fund.

21 (c) Any net proceeds or revenue from the operation,
22 management, sale, lease, or other disposition of land or the



1 improvements on [~~such~~] the land[~~7~~] acquired or constructed by
2 the board under the provisions of this chapter[~~7~~] shall also be
3 deposited in or credited to the fund.

4 (d) Ten per cent of all taxes imposed and collected by
5 section 247-1 shall be deposited in or credited to the fund
6 every year.

7 (e) Moneys from any other private or public source may be
8 deposited in or credited to the fund; provided that mandates,
9 regulations, or conditions on these funds do not conflict with
10 the use of the fund under this chapter. Moneys received as a
11 deposit or private contribution shall be deposited, used, and
12 accounted for in accordance with the conditions established by
13 the agency or person making the contribution.

14 [~~e~~] (f) The fund shall be administered and managed by
15 the department.

16 [~~f~~] (g) The acquisition of interests or rights in land
17 having value as a resource to the State for the preservation
18 of[+] the following shall constitute a public purpose for which
19 public funds may be expended or advanced:

20 (1) Watershed protection;

21 (2) Coastal areas, beaches, and ocean access;

22 (3) Habitat protection;



- 1 (4) Cultural and historical sites;
- 2 (5) Recreational and public hunting areas;
- 3 (6) Parks;
- 4 (7) Natural areas;
- 5 (8) Agricultural production; [~~or~~] and
- 6 (9) Open spaces and scenic resources[~~;~~
- 7 ~~constitutes a public purpose for which public funds may be~~
- 8 ~~expended or advanced].~~

9 [~~g~~] (h) The fund shall be used for:

- 10 (1) The acquisition of interests or rights in land having
- 11 value as a resource to the State, whether in fee title
- 12 or through the establishment of permanent conservation
- 13 easements under chapter 198 or agricultural easements;
- 14 (2) The payment of any debt service on state financial
- 15 instruments relating to the acquisition of interests
- 16 or rights in land having value as a resource to the
- 17 State; and
- 18 (3) Annual administration costs for the fund, not to
- 19 exceed five per cent of annual fund revenues of the
- 20 previous year.
- 21 (4) Costs related to the operation, maintenance, and
- 22 management of lands acquired by way of this fund that



1 are necessary to protect, maintain, or restore
2 resources at risk on these lands, or that provide for
3 greater public access and enjoyment of these lands;
4 provided that the costs related to the operation,
5 maintenance, and management of lands acquired by way
6 of this fund do not exceed five per cent of annual
7 fund revenues of the previous year.

8 ~~(h)~~ (i) Based on applications from state agencies,
9 counties, and nonprofit land conservation organizations, the
10 department, in consultation with the senate president and
11 speaker of the house of representatives, shall recommend to the
12 board specific parcels of land to be acquired, restricted with
13 conservation easements, or preserved in similar fashion. The
14 board shall review the selections and approve or reject the
15 selections according to the availability of moneys in the fund.
16 To be eligible for grants from the fund, state and county
17 agencies and nonprofit land conservation organizations shall
18 submit applications to the department that contain:

- 19 (1) Contact information for the project;
20 (2) A description of the project;
21 (3) The request for funding;



1 (4) Cost estimates for acquisition of the interest in the
2 land;

3 (5) Location and characteristics of the land; and

4 (6) Other similar, related, or relevant information as
5 [~~may be~~] determined by the department.

6 [~~(i)~~] (j) For applications approved by the board, the
7 board may acquire land having value as a resource to the State,
8 pursuant to section 173A-4, or the board may award grants from
9 the fund to the qualifying state or county agencies or nonprofit
10 land conservation organizations for the preservation of the real
11 property. Where the recipient of a grant is a county agency or
12 nonprofit land conservation organization, the board shall
13 require additional matching funds of at least twenty-five per
14 cent of the total project costs. Matching funds may be in the
15 form of:

- 16 (1) Direct moneys;
- 17 (2) A combination of public and private funds;
- 18 (3) Land value donation;
- 19 (4) In-kind contributions; or
- 20 (5) Any combination of the above[~~and~~
21 ~~evidence~~].



1 (k) Evidence of [~~these~~] the matching funds in subsection
2 (j) shall be made available [~~from~~] by the qualifying entities
3 prior to distribution of the fund grant.

4 [~~(j)~~] (1) The board shall:

5 (1) Track amounts disbursed from the fund;

6 (2) Prepare and submit an annual report to [~~be transmitted~~
7 ~~to~~] the governor and the legislature at least twenty
8 days prior to the convening of each regular session
9 [~~of the legislature~~]. The annual report shall

10 include:

11 (A) A summary of all interests or rights in land
12 acquired during the preceding fiscal year;

13 (B) A summary of what value each newly acquired land
14 has as a resource to the State;

15 (C) Proposals for future land acquisitions, including
16 a summary of the resource value that the land may
17 possess;

18 (D) A financial report for the preceding fiscal year;
19 and

20 (E) Objectives and budget projections for the
21 following fiscal year; and



1 (3) Make copies of the annual report available to the
2 public."

3 SECTION 3. Section 173A-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **"§173A-9 Grants to state agencies, counties, and nonprofit**
6 **land conservation organizations.** After consultation with the
7 senate president and speaker of the house of representatives,
8 and subject to the approval of the governor, the board may make
9 grants to state agencies, counties, and nonprofit land
10 conservation organizations from available funds for the purchase
11 or acquisition of interests or rights in land having value as a
12 resource to the State, whether in fee title or through the
13 purchase of permanent conservation easements under chapter 198,
14 and approved for purchase or acquisition by the board[-], or for
15 the operation, maintenance, and management of lands acquired
16 under this chapter that are necessary to protect, maintain, or
17 restore resources at risk on these lands, or that provide for
18 greater public access and enjoyment of these lands. Any land so
19 acquired by any state agency or county may be sold, leased, or
20 otherwise disposed of, subject to chapter 171, with the prior
21 written approval of the board. Any land acquired by any
22 nonprofit land conservation organization under this chapter may



1 be sold, leased, or otherwise disposed of with the prior written
2 approval of the board. Any permanent conservation easement
3 established under this section that includes partnership with a
4 federal land conservation program may be transferred only as
5 provided by rules of the federal program."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon approval.



S.B. NO. 3102
S.D. 2
H.D. 1
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Land Conservation Fund

Description:

Allows public and private moneys to be deposited into the land conservation fund (Fund) and distributed as grants for the acquisition of land having value as a resource to the State. Allows BLNR to require organizations receiving moneys from the fund to provide a conservation easement or other deed restriction for the long-term conservation of the land. (CD1)

