HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL 32 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO PUBLIC PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend provisions related to public parks, recreational facilities, and botanical gardens.

The City Council ("Council") finds that costs for the maintenance of parks, beach parks, recreational facilities, and botanical gardens are increasing significantly due to various factors including aging infrastructure, vandalism, and an overall rise in the cost of supplies. The Council believes that it is important to support our parks, beach parks, recreational facilities, and botanical gardens as gathering places for our residents and communities. The Council further believes it is critical that any fees collected for the use of parks, beach parks, recreational facilities, and botanical gardens are retained by the Department of Parks and Recreation for the maintenance and upkeep of these finite and valuable resources.

SECTION 2. Chapter 9, Article 3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Fees and Charges"), is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"**§ 9-3. Fees for the use of botanical gardens.**

(a) *Authorization.* The director of parks and recreation is authorized to set reasonable fees for the use and rental of a botanical garden or a botanical garden parking lot to help cover operating and maintenance costs. The department of parks and recreation may require a custodial deposit to serve as security for the cleaning, repairing, and restoration of any damage resulting from the use of the botanical garden or botanical garden parking lot. Before establishing the fees, the director of parks and recreation shall notify all duly constituted botanical garden advisory organizations concerning the proposed fees.

(b) *Revenues.* Revenue generated from user fees established pursuant to this section must be deposited into a fund designated by the director of parks and recreation.

(c) *Signage.* The department of parks and recreation shall post signage informing visitors of any user fees established pursuant to this section and payment instructions.

(d) *Payment.* The department of parks and recreation shall ensure that user fees established pursuant to this section can be paid via electronic methods, such as by mobile application, kiosk, or online portal.

(e) *Civil penalty.* A person found by the director of parks and recreation, after an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with HRS Chapter 91, to have violated any provision of this section is subject to a fine of $35.

(f) *Rules.* The director of parks and recreation shall adopt rules pursuant to HRS Chapter 91 for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of this section, including procedures and criteria for the waiver of permit fees.

(g) *Review and update of fees.* The director of parks and recreation shall review fees related to the use of botanical gardens at least every five years and update fees as needed.

(h) *Report required.* The director of parks and recreation shall provide the council with a report 12 months after the effective date of this ordinance, and every five years thereafter. The report must include an outline of the fee structure and any adopted fee increases."

SECTION 3. Chapter 10, Article 2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Fees and Charges for Use of Parks and Recreational Facilities"), is repealed.

SECTION 4. Chapter 10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Public Parks and Recreation Facilities"), is amended by adding a new Article 2 to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 2: FEES AND CHARGES FOR USE OF PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

§ 10-2.1 Fees for the commercial and noncommercial use of public parks, recreational facilities, parking lots, and other recreational areas.

(a) *Authorization.* Unless otherwise specified, the director is authorized to establish fees and charges by rule for the commercial and noncommercial use of public parks, recreational facilities, parking lots, or other recreational areas under the jurisdiction of the department of parks and recreation to help cover operating and maintenance costs.

The department of parks and recreation may require a custodial deposit to serve as security for the cleaning, repairing, and restoration of any damage resulting

from the use of the public parks, parking lots, or other recreational areas under the jurisdiction of the department of parks and recreation.

Fees and charges may include but are not limited to: program fees; entrance fees; permit fees; facility rental fees; storage fees; kitchen usage fees; community garden fees; fees for Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve; fees for use and rental of sports equipment; fees for camping; fees for recreational stops for tour vans and vehicles; attendant and custodial services fees; festival and event fees; commercial activities fees; and parking fees.

(b) *Revenues*. Revenue generated from user fees established pursuant to this section must be deposited into a fund designated by the director.

(c) *Signage*. The department of parks and recreation shall post signage informing visitors of any user fees established pursuant to this section and payment instructions.

(d) *Payment*. The department of parks and recreation shall ensure that user fees established pursuant to this section can be paid via electronic methods, such as by mobile application, kiosk, or online portal.

(e) *Civil penalty*. A person found by the director, after an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with HRS Chapter 91, to have violated any provision of this section is subject to a fine of $35.

(f) *Rules*. The director shall adopt rules pursuant to HRS Chapter 91 for the implementation, administration, and enforcement of this section, including procedures and criteria for the waiver of permit fees.

(g) *Review and update of fees.* The director shall review fees related to the use of public parks, recreational facilities, parking lots, and other recreational areas at least every five years and update fees as needed.

(h) *Report required.* The director shall provide the council with a report 12 months after the effective date of this ordinance, and every five years thereafter. The report must include an outline of the fee structure and any adopted fee increases."

SECTION 5. Chapter 10, Article 3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Fees for Use of Parks and Recreational Facilities for Commercial Activities"), is repealed.

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SECTION 6. Section 10-5.4, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is repealed.

["~~§ 10-5.4 Fees for land-based commercial windsurfing activities.~~

~~(a) The following fees shall apply to windsurfing activity permits:~~

~~(1) $10 for daily permits;~~

~~(2) $75 for monthly permits; and~~

~~(3) $900 for annual permits.~~

~~(b) The director is authorized to adopt rules to allow for the rebate of the unused portion of an annual permit fee, on a pro rata basis, should a commercial windsurfing permittee voluntarily relinquish the permittee's permit.~~"]

SECTION 7. Chapter 10, Article 7, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Policy on Fees for Organized Recreational Programs"), is repealed.

SECTION 8. Section 10-8.2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 10-8.2 Fees for participation in summer fun program[~~.~~] or enrichment program.**

The [~~department shall charge a fee of $25~~] director shall assess a fee, to be established by rule, for each child who participates in a summer fun program. The director may assess a fee, to be established by rule, for [~~a~~] each child who is registered as a participant in an enrichment program but not in a summer fun program."

SECTION 9. Section 10-9.3, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 10-9.3 Fee for professional sports activity at Hans L'Orange baseball facility.**

[~~The fee~~] The director may establish a fee by rule for a permit to conduct professional sports activities at Hans L'Orange baseball facility [~~shall be:~~

~~Daily permit~~	~~$100~~

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SECTION 10. Chapter 10, Article 12, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("After-School Programs"), is repealed.

SECTION 11. Chapter 10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Public Parks and Recreation Facilities"), is amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"**ARTICLE __: ADMISSION FEES FOR THE HONOLULU ZOO**

§ 10-__.1 Daily admission fees.

(a) The following daily admission fees will be assessed for the Honolulu Zoo; provided that a child less than 18 years of age must be accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older:

(1) Children two years of age and under: free;

(2) Resident of Hawaii, three to 12 years of age: $6 per person;

(3) Resident of Hawaii, 13 years of age and older: $10 per person; and

(4) Members of the Honolulu Zoological Society: free.

(b) The director of enterprise services may, by rules adopted in accordance with HRS Chapter 91, establish fees for admission to the Honolulu Zoo for the following:

(1) The United States military;

(2) Nonresidents of Hawaii, three to 12 years of age; and

(3) Nonresidents of Hawaii, 13 years of age and older.

(c) The director of enterprise services may set rates for persons participating in structured educational tours, group purchases, and promotional packages and persons with promotional coupons. The director of enterprise services is also authorized to allow entry of any person to the Honolulu Zoo as part of a promotional offer or package made available by the city."

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SECTION 12. Chapter 10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Public Parks and Recreation Facilities"), is amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"ARTICLE __: CANOE STORAGE FACILITIES—POLICY AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS

§ 10-__.1 Policy.

The council finds that Hawaiian outrigger canoe paddling is the official State team sport and, as such, the city recognizes, supports, and encourages the sport by permitting the storage of outrigger canoes at city parks. The council further finds that Olympic canoe and kayak paddling are Olympic sports and, as such, the city recognizes, supports, and encourages those sports by permitting the storage of Olympic canoes and kayaks at city parks.

§ 10-__.2 Definition.

For the purposes of this article, the following definition applies unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Halau. A facility used for the storage of outrigger canoes and Olympic canoes and kayaks.

§ 10-__.3 Special conditions to be met when providing halau at city parks.

The following special conditions apply to the establishment of halau at city parks:

(1) Halau may be constructed only at park locations designated by the department of parks and recreation;

(2) If not constructed by the city, the design of the halau must be approved by the department of parks and recreation;

(3) No more than 20,000 square feet or 10 percent of any city park, whichever is less, may be used for a halau, unless approved by the council, and the halau must be situated so as not to impede public access and use of the park property;

(4) The director of parks and recreation shall establish policies to ensure that each halau is operated in a manner that provides equal opportunity for use

by those who wish to store outrigger canoes and Olympic canoes and kayaks at the halau; and

(5) The department of parks and recreation shall control and monitor the use of each halau."

SECTION 13. Chapter 10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Public Parks and Recreation Facilities"), is amended by adding a new article to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"ARTICLE __: COMMERCIAL FILMING ACTIVITIES

§ 10-__.1 Definition.

For the purposes of this article, the following definition applies unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

Special Event Videography. The production of motion pictures or videos for private noncommercial use, including motion pictures or videos of weddings, graduations, or similar events to be used as family mementos.

§ 10-__.2 Commercial filming activity permit fees.

(a) The fees charged for a commercial filming activity permit are as follows:

Activity	*Daily Permit*	*Monthly Permit*	*Annual Permit*
(1) Movie or television for (i) nonlocal network and cable television or major motion picture studios, or both; or (ii) national advertising	$300	No monthly permit	No annual permit
(2) Movie or television for (i) nonprofit organizations as defined in § 13-1.1; (ii) local television and local advertising; (iii) public service, educational, or school productions; or (iv) other movie and television productions not described in subdivision (1)	$20	No monthly permit	No annual permit
(3) Still photos/special event videography	$20	$100	$1,000

provided that the mayor or a city officer or employee designated by the mayor may reduce any daily permit fee if deemed necessary by the mayor or designee to assist the proposed filming activity, and it is deemed by the mayor or designee that the activity will feature or promote any one or more of the following: the State, the island of Oahu, or the city. The promotions may be through the production directly or via indirect promotions related to the production.

(b) The mayor or a city officer or employee designated by the mayor shall determine which fee applies to a particular commercial filming activity permit."

SECTION 14. Section 6-51.2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 6-51.2 Purpose and deposits.

There will be deposited into the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve fund all receipts from the fees imposed [~~under § 10-2.8~~] pursuant to the authority granted to the director of parks and recreation under Chapter 10, Article 2, that are derived from the use of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve and all concession revenues from the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve concessions, plus any interest earned on deposits in the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve fund. All moneys deposited into the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve fund [~~will~~] must be used for the following purposes in the order of priority as indicated:

(1) First, for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve;

(2) Second, for educational and orientation programs for visitors to the [~~preserve;~~] Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve; and

(3) Third, for a carrying capacity study of the [~~preserve~~] Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve and for other studies relating to the environmental condition of the [~~preserve.~~] Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve."

SECTION 15. In SECTIONS 2, 6, 8, 9, and 14 of this ordinance, ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken and new material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring. In SECTION 2 and SECTION 4 of this ordinance, the Revisor of Ordinances shall, pursuant to the Revisor's authority under Section 1-16.3(b)(1), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), replace the phrase "effective date of this ordinance" or similar phrase used in the

codified language of this ordinance with the actual date on which the ordinance takes effect. The Revisor of Ordinances shall, pursuant to the Revisor's authority under SECTION 2 of Ordinance 23-7, update the Reporting Requirements Table to delete the reporting requirements repealed by SECTION 3 and to include the reporting requirements enacted by SECTION 2 and SECTION 4 of this ordinance.

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SECTION 16. This ordinance takes effect 450 days after its approval; provided that all fees and charges established pursuant to ROH Chapter 10, Article 2; ROH Chapter 10, Article 3; ROH Section 10-8.2; ROH Section 10-9.3; and ROH Section 10-12.2, as these articles and sections read on the day prior to the effective date of this ordinance, shall not repeal and are to remain in effect until such time that the Director of Parks and Recreation has adopted rules pursuant to ROH Section 10-2.1(f), as enacted by SECTION 3 of this ordinance, and such rules have taken effect.

INTRODUCED BY:

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

MAR 17 2026

Honolulu, Hawai'i

_____

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

_____

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____day of _____, 20 ___.

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RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

Report Title:
Parks; Recreational Facilities; Botanical Gardens; Fees; Charges; Revenues; Permits; Commercial Use; Noncommercial Use; Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"); Rules; Rulemaking Authority; Report

Description:
Repeals certain specific fees and charges for the use of public parks and recreational facilities. Authorizes the DPR Director to establish fees and charges by rule for the commercial and noncommercial use of parks; recreational facilities; and botanical gardens under the jurisdiction of the DPR and requires that the fees and charges collected (except those derived from the use of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve) be deposited into a fund designated by the DPR Director. Provides the DPR Director with rulemaking authority. Establishes reporting requirements. Takes effect 450 days after approval; provided that fees established by ROH articles and sections to be repealed will remain in effect until the DPR Director adopts rules.

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