
Auditor's Summary

Review of Special Funds, Revolving Funds, Trust Funds, and Trust Accounts of the Department of Budget and Finance

Twenty-nine special funds, trust funds, and trust accounts were reviewed

Report No. 18-17

One special fund did not meet criteria

WE REVIEWED 29 FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS administered by the Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) and reported on 20 of them – specifically, 3 special funds, 4 trust funds, and 13 trust accounts. B&F did not have any revolving funds during the period of our review. We found one special fund did not meet criteria and should be closed.

Section 23-12, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the Auditor to review all existing special, revolving, and trust funds every five years. Reviews are scheduled so that each department's funds are reviewed once every five years. Although not mandated by statute, we included trust accounts as part of our review. This is our sixth review of the revolving funds, trust funds, and trust accounts, and our second review of the special funds of B&F.

We used criteria developed by the Legislature and by our office based on public finance and accounting literature. For each fund, we present a five-year financial summary, the purpose of the fund, and conclusions about its use. We did not audit the financial data which is provided for informational purposes. We do not present conclusions about the effectiveness of programs or their management, or whether the programs should be continued.

Reporting shortfall

WE ALSO NOTED that B&F did not file statutorily required reports for non-general funds and for administratively created funds. Accurate and complete reporting will greatly improve the Legislature's oversight and control of these funds and provide increased budgetary flexibility.

Agency response

B&F AGREED with our findings and will take appropriate action to close the special fund that did not meet criteria. B&F will also comply with reporting requirements.



FUND TYPES

SPECIAL FUNDS

are used to account for revenues earmarked for particular purposes and from which expenditures are made for those purposes.

REVOLVING FUNDS

such as loan funds, are often established with an appropriation of seed money from the general fund, and must demonstrate the capacity to be self-sustaining.

TRUST FUNDS

such as a pension fund, invoke the State's fiduciary responsibility to care for and use the assets held to benefit those with a vested interest in the assets.

TRUST ACCOUNTS

are typically separate holding or clearing accounts and are often used as accounting devices for crediting or charging state agencies or projects for payroll and other costs.