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# Auditor's Summary

## Review of Special Funds, Revolving Funds, Trust Funds, and Trust Accounts of the Department of Transportation

Report No. 24-04

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### Two special funds, five revolving funds, one trust fund, and one trust account did not meet criteria

**OUR REVIEW** of twelve special funds, six revolving funds, eight trust funds, and seventeen trust accounts of the Department of Transportation (DOT) found two special funds, five revolving funds, one trust fund, and one trust account did not meet the criteria for special funds, revolving funds, trust funds, and trust accounts, respectively, and should be closed or reclassified.

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 seventh review of DOT's revolving funds, trust funds, and trust accounts. It is our third review of the special funds held by DOT since Act 130, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013, amended Section 23-12, HRS, to require review of special funds along with revolving funds and trust funds.

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 NOTED THAT DOT** did not file statutorily required reports for non-general funds totaling approximately \$28.3 million, administratively created non-general funds totaling approximately \$530.2 million, non-general funds with balances totaling approximately \$1.57 billion under the program measures reporting requirement, and non-general funds with balances totaling approximately \$2.19 billion under the



#### 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.

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cost element reporting requirement. Accurate and complete reporting will greatly improve the Legislature's oversight and control of these funds.

### **Agency response**

DOT concurred with our recommendations for fund reclassification and stated they will reach out to the Department of Accounting and General Services to implement these recommendations. DOT acknowledged that Safe Routes to School Program Special Fund could be successfully implemented using the General Fund. DOT, with concurrence from the Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee, can transfer funds to the counties to implement the Safe Routes to School Program plan and projects.



**Link to the complete report:**

**Review of Special Funds, Revolving Funds, Trust Funds, and Trust Accounts of the Department of Transportation**

<https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2024/24-04.pdf>