
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that steel plates placed
2 in the roadway during construction or repairs can pose a threat
3 to motorists and their vehicles. Steel plates can be hazardous
4 because of the raised edge presented to oncoming traffic. They
5 can be dangerous for motorcyclists even in the best weather and
6 are especially hazardous for motorcyclists in wet conditions.

7 The legislature also finds that the State lacks a uniform
8 policy to warn motorists of the presence of steel plates in the
9 roadway during construction or repairs. While the state
10 department of transportation adheres to the standards of the
11 Manual on Uniform Traffic Devices, these standards do not
12 address the use of steel plates. Instead, the department avoids
13 using steel plates on roadways where the speed limit is thirty-
14 five miles per hour or more because of the difficulty of braking
15 on the steel surface.

16 The legislature further finds that the county of Maui has
17 recently adopted a policy requiring the use of signs to warn
18 motorists whenever steel plates are used. However, the county



1 of Hawaii has no policy requiring placement of warning signage,
2 the county of Kauai believes that existing road construction
3 signage is sufficient, and the city and county of Honolulu
4 leaves it up to the contractor to determine what signage is
5 necessary.

6 The purpose of this Act is to enhance traffic safety
7 statewide by requiring that, whenever construction or repair
8 work is performed on a public highway by the State, a political
9 subdivision, or a private contractor, motorists be warned with
10 appropriate signage of the presence of steel plates in the
11 roadway.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 264, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 "§264- Use of steel plates during public highway
16 construction or repair. (a) Whenever the State, a political
17 subdivision thereof, or a private contractor performing
18 construction work or repairs on a public highway places steel
19 plates in the roadway to conceal holes or otherwise make the
20 roadway passable to vehicular traffic, signs or other
21 appropriate devices specifically warning of the presence of



1 steel plates shall be posted in a manner so as to warn oncoming
2 vehicles.

3 (b) The director shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91
4 establishing standards for the type and placement of devices
5 required by subsection (a).

6 (c) Violation of this section or of rules adopted
7 hereunder shall be a violation."

8 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

10

INTRODUCED BY: *[Signature]*

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
Maich B. Lee
Pino Chang

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

HB 1807

Report Title:

Transportation; Highway Safety

Description:

Requires the State, counties, and contractors performing work on a public highway to post signs warning motorists of steel plates placed in the roadway.

