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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY AT PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are many  
2 hazardous traffic conditions that exist at Hawaii's public  
3 schools, particularly during the morning when students are  
4 dropped off at school and in the afternoon when students are  
5 picked up from school. These safety hazards are compounded when  
6 egress and ingress at the schools is slow and frustrating for  
7 parents, as well as the faculty and students who attempt to find  
8 parking at the same time. In instances where students have to  
9 walk through a parking lot or congested areas to get to school,  
10 the traffic flow is further disrupted, resulting in a dangerous  
11 traffic environment. Often, there are not enough school  
12 security aides or safety managers to supervise and control the  
13 situation, as they are pressed with other duties. Moreover,  
14 poor planning and uncoordinated efforts have often hampered  
15 attempts to mitigate these traffic hazards.

16           Title 1, Federal-Aid Highways, Subtitle D - Highway Safety  
17 Section 1404 - Safe Routes to School Program provides that the  
18 Secretary of Transportation "shall establish and carry out a



1 safe routes to school program for the benefit of children in  
2 primary and middle schools." The stated purpose of the program  
3 is:

4 (1) enable and encourage children, including those with  
5 disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; (2) to  
6 make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more  
7 appealing transportation alternative, thereby  
8 encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an  
9 early age; and (3) to facilitate the planning,  
10 development, and implementation of projects and  
11 activities that will improve safety and reduce  
12 traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the  
13 vicinity of schools.

14 The benefits of safe routes to school include safer roads  
15 for pedestrians and bicyclists, fewer and less severe traffic  
16 accidents, fewer and less severe child casualties, reducing  
17 stress by eliminating battle of traffic congestion during drop-  
18 off and pick-up times, encourage use of alternative  
19 transportation, giving children greater opportunity to walk and  
20 bike with other children in groups, reducing neighborhood  
21 traffic congestion, and improving walking and biking safety.



1           The purpose of this Act is to establish a safe routes to  
2 school program to conform to federal requirements.

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

6           "§264- Safe routes to school. (a) The department of  
7 transportation, with the assistance of the department of  
8 education, shall develop and implement a plan for safe routes to  
9 school program. The purpose of the program shall be:

- 10           (1) To enable and encourage children, including those with  
11           disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;  
12           (2) To make bicycling and walking to school a safer and  
13           more appealing transportation alternative, thereby  
14           encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an  
15           early age;  
16           (3) To facilitate the planning, development, and  
17           implementation of projects and activities that will  
18           improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption,  
19           and air pollution in the vicinity of schools; and  
20           (4) Such other traffic measures deemed appropriate by the  
21           department.



1        (b) The department of transportation shall endeavor to  
2 obtain maximum federal funding for the safe routes to school  
3 program.

4        (c) For purposes of this section, the department of  
5 transportation shall plan and implement, in collaboration with  
6 the department of education, Federal Highway Administration,  
7 counties, and community organizations, a safe routes to school  
8 program."

9        SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
10 amended by adding a new section to part VI be appropriately  
11 designated and to read as follows:

12        **"§302A- Safe routes to school.** The department shall  
13 collaborate with the department of transportation for purposes  
14 of section 264- ."

15        SECTION 4. (a) The department of transportation, with the  
16 participation of the department of education, shall undertake a  
17 traffic flow study for each school, as part of the safe routes  
18 to school program under sections 2 and 3 of this Act, for each  
19 for elementary, middle, and high school, whether public or  
20 private, to mitigate hazardous traffic conditions. The study  
21 shall include, but not be limited to, a review of hazardous  
22 conditions relating to parking, drop off areas, pick up areas,

1 ingress and egress, and pedestrian safety at schools. The study  
2 shall include other factors the department of transportation and  
3 the department of education deem appropriate and relevant to  
4 decrease safety hazards, with regard to individual schools, such  
5 as:

- 6 (1) Surrounding communities affected by the school;
- 7 (2) Population densities and growth of those communities;
- 8 (3) Existing patterns and trends in traffic flows and  
9 densities;
- 10 (4) Peak capacities of surrounding roads and feeder  
11 highways around the affected school; and
- 12 (5) Any other factors deemed relevant.

13 (b) The traffic flow study shall include the  
14 recommendations and input of concerned neighbors, parents,  
15 faculty, and students. The department of transportation and the  
16 department of education, in cooperation with the statewide  
17 traffic safety committee, shall determine the order of schools  
18 for which the traffic flow study shall be conducted.

19 (c) The department of transportation shall submit a report  
20 of findings and recommendations to the governor and legislature  
21 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
22 Session of 2008, and progress reports no later than December 31,

1 2006 and December 31, 2007, including proposed legislation to  
2 implement the study's recommendations in any of the reports.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
6 a traffic flow study for each school as provided in section 4 of  
7 this Act.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,  
12 provided that section 5 shall take effect July 1, 2006.

**Report Title:**

Traffic Study; Schools; School Safety

**Description:**

Enacts a safe routes to school program; requires the department of transportation to conduct a traffic flow study of hazardous traffic conditions at Hawaii public schools and develop a safety plan. Makes appropriation. (SD1)

