
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The 2004 "Elderly Pedestrian Integration
2 Report" prepared by SMS Research & Marketing Services, Inc., for
3 the department of transportation indicated that there are
4 approximately five hundred sixty pedestrian injuries in Hawaii
5 each year and that an average of twenty-eight pedestrians die
6 each year after being struck by a car. Elderly pedestrians, age
7 sixty-five and older, constituted the highest number of
8 pedestrian fatalities when compared to all other age groups in
9 Hawaii.

10 The length of a flashing indication (hand symbol) is
11 calculated based upon the length of the crosswalk and the
12 nationally recognized average walking speed of pedestrians.

13 However, elderly pedestrians need more time to cross major
14 intersections due to diminishing physical abilities.

15 Considering that an elderly pedestrian generally crosses the
16 street at a slower walking speed, limited time periods to cross
17 the street put elderly pedestrians at risk.



1 In 2006, AARP Hawaii staff, volunteers, and community
2 partners gathered at intersections across Hawaii to conduct
3 "walkability" assessments along many of Hawaii's busiest streets
4 and identified many intersections where the time periods to
5 safely cross the street were too short. Hawaii's elderly
6 pedestrians should not have to rush to cross the street. The
7 length of a flashing signal should be sufficient for elderly
8 pedestrians to safely cross the street.

9 While the elderly, children, and disabled persons are the
10 most vulnerable, others are also at risk. By mid-September of
11 2007, twenty pedestrians had already been killed in Hawaii, with
12 seven of those deaths occurring in crosswalks. Immediate action
13 is necessary to prevent future fatalities.

14 The legislature finds that making Hawaii's roadways safer
15 for pedestrians is consistent with Kamehameha's famous law, Ke
16 Kanawai Mamalahoe, the Law of the Splintered Paddle, which
17 assures that every man, woman, and child is able to travel
18 freely and in peace. This law is established as state law in
19 article IX, section 10, of the Hawaii state constitution:

20 "Let every elderly person, woman and child lie by the
21 roadside in safety -- shall be a unique and living
22 symbol of the State's concern for public safety."



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
2 department of transportation to work with nonprofit
3 organizations and the counties to take steps for immediate
4 action to make crosswalks and roadways safer.

5 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall work
6 with the counties and nonprofit organizations, such as AARP
7 Hawaii, in implementing improvements that do not require
8 extensive studies to make crosswalks and roadways safer for
9 pedestrians, with priority to high-risk areas, including but not
10 limited to:

- 11 (1) Recalibrating traffic signals to lengthen crossing
12 times;
- 13 (2) Accelerating the schedule to replace non-timer
14 crossing signals with traffic countdown timers;
- 15 (3) Strategically reprioritizing installation of traffic
16 countdown timers based upon how dangerous the
17 intersection ranks according to available data,
18 including the recent AARP Hawaii study;
- 19 (4) Developing a statewide public awareness campaign;
- 20 (5) Implementing pilot projects using such strategies as
21 pedestrian-activated flashing signals, in-pavement



1 warning lights, portable hand-carried signs and flags,
2 and advanced crosswalk markers; and
3 (6) Enforcement of crosswalk laws for cars and
4 pedestrians.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,500,000, or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for
8 the department of transportation to work with the counties and
9 nonprofit organizations to identify and implement improvements
10 that do not require extensive studies to make crosswalks and
11 roadways safer for pedestrians.

12 Of the total sum of \$1,500,000:

13 (1) The sum of \$900,000 or so much thereof as may be
14 necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 shall be expended
15 by the department of transportation for purposes of
16 section 2 of this Act; and

17 (2) The sum of \$600,000 or so much thereof as may be
18 necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 shall be disbursed
19 as grants-in-aid to the counties for the purchase and
20 installation of traffic countdown timers at county-
21 controlled intersections and other pedestrian safety
22 improvements; provided that no funds shall be released



1 to a county unless that county matches the
 2 appropriation on a one-to-one basis. The
 3 appropriation to each county shall be as follows:

- 4 (A) City and county of Honolulu \$300,000
- 5 (B) Hawaii county \$150,000
- 6 (C) Kauai county \$75,000
- 7 (D) Maui county \$75,000

8 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the respective
 9 counties for the purposes of this section.

10 SECTION 4. The department of transportation shall submit a
 11 report, including accomplishments, findings, future plans, cost
 12 estimates, and any proposed legislation relating to pedestrian
 13 safety improvements, to the legislature not later than twenty
 14 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2009.

15 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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Report Title:

Pedestrian Safety; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for pedestrian safety improvements by the State and counties.

