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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that traffic congestion  
2 in the State is increasing. Traffic congestion contributes to  
3 diminished safety and air quality and imposes substantial costs  
4 on residents and businesses. The availability of lane miles for  
5 commuters is a factor in traffic flow. Hawaii is lane deficient  
6 when compared to states with similar population densities. The  
7 department of transportation currently provides, operates, and  
8 maintains 2,423 lane miles of highway at a low level of service.  
9 Traffic flow approaching a point often exceeds the amount of  
10 traffic that can be served. As a result, commuters experience  
11 stop-and-go waves, poor travel time, low comfort and  
12 convenience, and increased accident exposure.

13           The department of transportation highways division has  
14 abandoned the suggestion of building more highways in favor of  
15 other alternatives. However, it is possible that rights-of-way  
16 may exist that could provide a plausible means of expanding lane  
17 miles. The legislature further finds that the department of  
18 transportation should:



1 (1) Strive to provide the maximum level of service, which  
2 is free-flowing traffic and is characterized by  
3 commuters who are virtually unaffected by the presence  
4 of others in the traffic stream; and

5 (2) Not abandon the building of more lane miles as a  
6 viable method of increasing the carrying capacity of  
7 state highways.

8 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
9 transportation to identify all existing and any possible  
10 rights-of-way within each county that would facilitate the  
11 building of more lane miles and increase the carrying capacity  
12 of the highways within its jurisdiction.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall:

14 (1) Identify all existing and any possible rights-of-way  
15 within each county that would facilitate the building  
16 of more lane miles and increase the carrying capacity  
17 of the highways within its jurisdiction; and

18 (2) Submit a report of findings and recommendations to the  
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
20 convening of the 2009 regular session.

21 (b) Each county shall cooperate with the department of  
22 transportation for the purpose of subsection (a).



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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**Report Title:**

Transportation; Traffic

**Description:**

Requires the department of transportation to identify all existing and any possible rights-of-way within each county that would facilitate the building of more lane miles and increase the carrying capacity of the highways within its jurisdiction.

