

JAN 19 2007

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 Report
2 prepared by SMS Research & Marketing Services, Inc. for the
3 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 on 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 timeframes to cross
17 the street safely put elderly pedestrians at risk.



1 Recently, 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 timeframes to cross
5 the street safely were too short. Hawaii's elderly pedestrians
6 should not have to rush to cross the street. The length of a
7 flashing indication should be sufficient for elderly pedestrians
8 to cross the street safely.

9 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
10 transportation to conduct a pilot study to identify
11 intersections where the time to cross the intersection is
12 insufficient for elderly pedestrians, and to appropriate funds
13 for the implementation of the pilot study.

14 SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall
15 conduct a pilot study to identify state and county intersections
16 where the time to cross the intersection is insufficient for
17 elderly pedestrians.

18 (b) The department of transportation shall focus its study
19 on the first thirty-five state and county intersections that
20 were identified by AARP Hawaii as having insufficient timeframes
21 for elderly persons to cross the street safely.



1 (c) The department of transportation shall submit a
 2 report, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
 3 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2008
 4 regular session.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so
 7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for
 8 the department of transportation to conduct a pilot study to
 9 identify state and county intersections where the time to cross
 10 the intersection is insufficient for elderly pedestrians.

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

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.
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Report Title:

Pedestrian Safety; Pilot Study

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of transportation for a pilot study to identify state and county intersections where the time to cross the intersection is insufficient for elderly pedestrians.

