
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. According to findings of R.L. Polk and Company,
2 a worldwide automotive research organization, hybrid vehicles
3 reduce smog pollution by ninety per cent or more compared with
4 the cleanest conventional engine vehicles and consume
5 significantly less fuel than vehicles powered by gasoline alone,
6 important factors in reducing global warming pollutants. Since
7 2003, Hawaii has consistently ranked among the top states in per
8 capita hybrid sales.

9 The legislature finds that Hawaii residents should be
10 encouraged to purchase hybrid and other energy-efficient
11 vehicles in order to protect the environment by reducing
12 emissions and pollutants. An important incentive would be to
13 allow hybrid and other energy-efficient vehicles to utilize high
14 occupancy vehicle lanes regardless of whether the vehicle
15 contains the minimum amount of passengers to lawfully utilize
16 the high occupancy vehicle lane.



1 The purpose of this Act is to allow hybrid and other
2 energy-efficient vehicles to utilize high occupancy vehicle
3 lanes without regard to the number of occupants in the vehicle.

4 SECTION 2. Section 291C-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
6 inserted and to read as follows:

7 "Energy-efficient vehicle" has the same meaning as
8 contained in section 103D-412.

9 "Hybrid vehicle" means a vehicle that uses an on-board
10 rechargeable energy storage system and a fuel-based power source
11 (combustion engine) for vehicle propulsion. The rechargeable
12 energy storage system generally operates by utilizing:

13 (1) Batteries to capture kinetic energy through
14 regenerative braking; or

15 (2) The combustion engine to generate electricity to
16 recharge the battery, or to feed power directly to the
17 electric motor during cruising or light thrust on the
18 accelerator.

19 The term "hybrid vehicle" includes petroleum-electric hybrid
20 vehicles and hybrid electric vehicles (HEV)."



1 SECTION 3. Section 291C-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending the definition of "high occupancy vehicle
3 lane" to read as follows:

4 "High occupancy vehicle lane" means a designated lane of a
5 laned roadway where the use of the designated lane is restricted
6 to school buses, vehicles carrying at least the minimum number
7 of persons designated by the director of transportation on
8 official signs and other official traffic-control devices, [~~and~~]
9 hybrid vehicles, energy-efficient vehicles, and to other
10 vehicles as provided by rules adopted in accordance with chapter
11 91, or by county ordinance."

12 SECTION 4. Section 291C-222, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended as follows:

14 1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

15 "(a) The director of transportation by rules adopted in
16 accordance with chapter 91, and the counties by ordinance, may
17 designate high occupancy vehicle lanes as to roadways under
18 their respective jurisdictions. The director of transportation
19 by rules adopted in accordance with chapter 91, shall develop
20 the means to identify hybrid vehicles and energy-efficient
21 vehicles, including but not limited to, the use of decals."

22 2. By amending subsection (d) to read:



1 "(d) A motorcycle, hybrid vehicle, or energy-efficient
2 vehicle may use any high occupancy vehicle lane, regardless of
3 the number of occupants."

4 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes; Hybrid and Energy-Efficient
Vehicles

Description:

Provides that high occupancy vehicle lanes may be used by hybrid
and other energy-efficient vehicles, regardless of the number of
occupants. (SD1)

