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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that almost every school  
2 in Hawaii is plagued by traffic congestion that results from  
3 poor planning and increased vehicular traffic. It is estimated  
4 that as much as twenty to twenty-five per cent of morning  
5 traffic consists of parents driving their children to school.  
6 Ironically, safety concerns lead parents to drive their children  
7 to school, which increases the traffic and makes it even less  
8 safe for others to walk and bike. Unfortunately, fifty per cent  
9 of children who are hit by cars near schools are hit by cars  
10 driven by parents of other students.

11           As part of the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient  
12 Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Public Law No.  
13 109-59, Hawaii has been awarded \$1,000,000 per year for five  
14 years for the Safe Routes to School program. Program funds may  
15 be used for both infrastructure-related and behavioral projects  
16 designed to reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution  
17 in the vicinity of schools and provide a safe and appealing  
18 environment for primary and secondary school children to walk



1 and bicycle to school. Unfortunately, Hawaii has not made  
2 optimum use of its \$5,000,000 share of Safe Routes to School  
3 grant funding. Implementation of the program and distribution  
4 of funds has been slow, and as a result, \$3,000,000 remains  
5 unused.

6       Efficient and effective use of Safe Routes to School  
7 funding requires planning that includes the full range of  
8 community stakeholders so that projects have the support of  
9 parents, students, and schools needed to succeed. Planning also  
10 needs to deemphasize very expensive engineering changes, like  
11 additional traffic lights that can consume one-third of the  
12 annual grant budget. Smaller projects involving more  
13 stakeholders and more schools are necessary to generate change  
14 across a broad spectrum of the state. The process must begin  
15 with assembling basic information about transportation issues  
16 confronting students, parents, and the community.

17       The purpose of this Act is to enhance traffic safety,  
18 especially around Hawaii's schools, through the federal Safe  
19 Routes to School program.

20       SECTION 2. (a) The director of transportation, through  
21 the Safe Routes to School coordinator, shall conduct a statewide  
22 pupil travel evaluation to study how students get to school.



1 The director, in consultation with the department of education,  
2 department of health, and Hawaii Association of Independent  
3 schools, shall use the information obtained from the evaluation  
4 to provide Safe Routes to School program funds for school-based  
5 workshops and community-based planning projects that will reduce  
6 vehicular travel and congestion, encourage walking and  
7 bicycling, and promote health and safety. Funding decisions  
8 shall take into consideration the need to:

- 9 (1) Maximize the participation of stakeholder groups in  
10 the community; and
- 11 (2) Train volunteer facilitators for school-based  
12 workshops and community-based planning projects,  
13 including flexible training schedules.
- 14 (b) The evaluation required by subsection (a) shall:
- 15 (1) Identify the modes of travel used by students to get  
16 to each school;
- 17 (2) Determine the number of students using each mode of  
18 travel;
- 19 (3) Survey the parents of each student to gather  
20 information regarding the factors involved in the  
21 choice of transportation mode for the student and,  
22 where the student travels by automobile or bus, what



1 would need to change for the parent to permit the  
2 student to walk or ride a bicycle to school;

3 (4) Identify traffic infrastructure elements in the  
4 immediate vicinity of each school, including multi-  
5 lane roadways, speed limits, and traffic calming  
6 features that, either by their presence or absence,  
7 contribute to the use of automobiles as a student's  
8 mode of travel to school; and

9 (5) Prepare a map of the immediate vicinity of each school  
10 that can be used to identify alternate locations for  
11 students to be dropped off by automobiles and buses  
12 and safe routes for students to walk and ride bicycles  
13 to school.

14 SECTION 3. The director of transportation shall, in  
15 consultation with organizations that have received non-  
16 infrastructure and pending infrastructure grants, develop a  
17 streamlined process for the federal Safe Routes to School grant  
18 program that simplifies the application process and expedites  
19 release of funding for the school-based workshops and community-  
20 based planning projects required by section 2(a).

21 SECTION 4. The director of transportation shall submit a  
22 report of the results of the statewide pupil travel evaluation

1 required by this Act and the school-based workshops and  
2 community-based planning projects funded by the Safe Routes to  
3 School program, no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
4 of the regular session of 2010.

5 SECTION 5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as  
6 requiring actions or omissions that would render the State  
7 ineligible to receive funds for the Safe Routes to School  
8 program under the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient  
9 Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Public Law No.  
10 109-59.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Schools; Traffic Safety

**Description:**

Requires the director of transportation to conduct a statewide pupil travel evaluation to study how students get to school and use the information obtained from the evaluation to provide Safe Routes to School program funds for school-based workshops and community-based planning projects that will reduce vehicular travel and congestion, encourage walking and bicycling, and promote health and safety. Requires the Director to develop a streamlined process for the federal Safe Routes to School grant program. (HB983 HD1)

