
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 & Co., a
2 worldwide automotive research organization, hybrid vehicles
3 reduce levels of global warming pollutants. Hybrid vehicles
4 reduce smog pollution by ninety per cent or more compared with
5 the cleanest-burning, conventional engine vehicles. They also
6 consume significantly less fuel than vehicles powered by
7 gasoline alone. According to August 2008 vehicle registration
8 data compiled by R.L. Polk & Co., Hawaii ranks among the top
9 fifteen states in new hybrids per one thousand residents.

10 The legislature finds that Hawaii residents should be
11 encouraged to continue purchasing hybrid and other energy-
12 efficient vehicles to reduce pollutants and emissions. An
13 effective incentive would be to allow hybrid and other energy-
14 efficient vehicles to use high occupancy vehicle lanes
15 regardless of whether each hybrid or energy-efficient vehicle
16 contains the minimum number of passengers to lawfully use the
17 high occupancy vehicle lane.

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

4 SECTION 2. Section 103D-412, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending the definition of "energy-efficient vehicle"
6 to read as follows:

7 ""Energy-efficient vehicle" means a vehicle that:

8 (1) Is capable of using an alternative fuel;

9 (2) Is powered primarily through the use of an electric
10 battery or battery pack that stores energy produced by
11 an electric motor through regenerative braking to
12 assist in vehicle operation;

13 (3) Is propelled by power derived from one or more cells
14 converting chemical energy directly into electricity
15 by combining oxygen with hydrogen fuel that is stored
16 on board the vehicle in any form; or

17 (4) Draws propulsion energy from onboard sources of stored
18 energy generated from an internal combustion or heat
19 engine using combustible fuel and a rechargeable
20 energy storage system[~~or~~].

21 ~~[(5) Is on the list of "Most Energy Efficient Vehicles" in~~
22 ~~its class or is in the top one-fifth of the most~~

1 ~~energy-efficient vehicles in its class available in~~
2 ~~Hawaii as shown by vehicle fuel efficiency lists,~~
3 ~~rankings, or reports maintained by the United States~~
4 ~~Environmental Protection Agency.]"~~

5 SECTION 3. Section 291C-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately
7 inserted and to read as follows:

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

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

- 14 (1) Batteries to capture kinetic energy through
15 regenerative braking; or
16 (2) A combustion engine to generate electricity to
17 recharge the battery, or to feed power directly to the
18 electric motor during cruising or light thrust on the
19 accelerator.

20 The term "hybrid vehicle" includes petroleum-electric hybrid
21 vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), and hybrid
22 electric vehicles (HEV)."

1 SECTION 4. 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 ~~to~~] hybrid vehicles and energy-efficient vehicles without regard
10 to the number of occupants, and other vehicles as provided by
11 rules adopted in accordance with chapter 91, or by county
12 ordinance."

13 SECTION 5. Section 291C-222, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended as follows:

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

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

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

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

5 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Report Title:

High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes; Hybrid Vehicles; Energy-Efficient Vehicles

Description:

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