

JAN 22 2010

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION ENERGY INITIATIVES.

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 291C-221, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
6 and 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; and
- 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.

21 "Hybrid vehicle" means a vehicle that uses an on-board
22 rechargeable energy storage system and a fuel-based power source



1 (combustion engine) for vehicle propulsion. The rechargeable
2 energy storage system generally operates by utilizing:

- 3 (1) Batteries to capture kinetic energy through
4 regenerative braking; or
5 (2) A combustion engine to generate electricity to
6 recharge the battery, or to feed power directly to the
7 electric motor during cruising or light thrust on the
8 accelerator.

9 The term "hybrid vehicle" includes petroleum-electric hybrid
10 vehicles, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV), and hybrid
11 electric vehicles (HEV).

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

15 "High occupancy vehicle lane" means a designated lane of a
16 laned roadway where the use of the designated lane is restricted
17 to school buses, vehicles carrying at least the minimum number
18 of persons designated by the director of transportation on
19 official signs and other official traffic-control devices, [and
20 ~~to~~ hybrid vehicles and energy-efficient vehicles without regard
21 to the number of occupants, and other vehicles as provided by



1 rules adopted in accordance with chapter 91, or by county
2 ordinance."

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

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

6 "(a) The director of transportation by rules adopted in
7 accordance with chapter 91, and the counties by ordinance, may
8 designate high occupancy vehicle lanes [as] to roadways under
9 their respective jurisdictions. The director of transportation,
10 by rules adopted in accordance with chapter 91, shall develop
11 the means to identify hybrid vehicles and energy-efficient
12 vehicles, including but not limited to the use of decals."

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

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

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

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

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Report Title:

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

Description:

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

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