
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are roads in
2 Hawaii whose ownership and jurisdiction are disputed between the
3 State and counties. The legislature further finds that the
4 safety of persons traveling over these so called "roads in
5 limbo" is affected by the lack of any maintenance to these
6 roads. The legislature also finds that neither State nor county
7 agencies are willing to maintain these roads because the
8 maintenance activities may be construed as assuming ownership
9 and jurisdiction over the disputed roads.

10 The purpose of this Act is to enable government agencies to
11 maintain roads whose ownership and jurisdiction are in dispute
12 between the State and the counties by:

13 (1) Specifying that the maintenance or repair of disputed
14 roads by any agency shall not be deemed to be an
15 indication that the agency has assumed ownership or
16 jurisdiction of the disputed road; and



1 (2) Allowing the State to quitclaim any interest it has in
2 any disputed road if the county requests title to the
3 disputed road.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately designated
6 and to read as follows:

7 "§27- Maintenance or repair of disputed public streets,
8 roads, or highways; quitclaim. (a) While ownership of a public
9 street, road, or highway remains in dispute between the State
10 and a county, no action by a government agency to maintain or
11 repair a public street, road, or highway shall be used to
12 establish the agency's ownership of, or jurisdiction over, the
13 public street, road, or highway and the agency shall not be
14 deemed to have assumed ownership of, or jurisdiction over, the
15 public street, road, or highway solely because of action to
16 maintain or repair a public street, road, or highway.

17 (b) If a county requests or requires title to a disputed
18 public street, road, or highway, the State may quitclaim
19 whatever interest it has in the public street, road, or highway
20 to the county."

21 SECTION 3. Section 46-15.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
22 amended to read as follows:



1 "§46-15.9 Traffic regulation; repair and maintenance;
2 public right to use public streets, roads, or highways whose
3 ownership is in dispute; quitclaim. (a) Any provision of law
4 to the contrary notwithstanding, any county and its authorized
5 personnel may impose and enforce traffic laws and shall enforce
6 chapters 249; 286; 287; 291; 291C; 291E; 431, articles 10C and
7 10G; and 486, part III on public streets, roads, or highways
8 whose ownership is in dispute between the State and the county.

9 (b) ~~[Any provision of the law to the contrary~~
10 ~~notwithstanding, any county and its authorized personnel may~~
11 ~~repair or maintain, in whole or in part, public streets, roads,~~
12 ~~or highways whose ownership is in dispute between the State and~~
13 ~~the county.] While ownership of a public street, road, or
14 highway remains in dispute between the State and a county, no
15 action by a government agency to maintain or repair a public
16 street, road, or highway shall be used to establish the agency's
17 ownership of, or jurisdiction over, the public street, road, or
18 highway and the agency shall not be deemed to have assumed
19 ownership of, or jurisdiction over, the public street, road, or
20 highway solely because of action to maintain or repair a public
21 street, road, or highway.~~



1 (c) No presumption that a county owns a particular street,
2 road, or highway shall arise as a result of the county's
3 performance of the activities allowed by subsection (a) or (b).

4 (d) If a county requests or requires title to a disputed
5 public street, road, or highway, the State may quitclaim
6 whatever interest it has in the public street, road, or highway
7 to the county.

8 [~~(d)~~] (e) The general public shall have the unrestricted
9 right to use public streets, roads, or highways whose ownership
10 is in dispute between the State and the county to access the
11 shoreline and other public recreational areas; provided that
12 this subsection shall not apply to any private street, road, or
13 highway whose ownership is in dispute.

14 [~~(e)~~] (f) As used in this section[
15 ~~"Public recreational area"]~~, "public recreational area"
16 means coastal and inland recreational areas, including beaches,
17 shores, public parks, public lands, public trails, and bodies of
18 water opened to the public for recreational use."

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

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Disputed Roads; Road Maintenance; Quitclaim

Description:

Specifies that a government agency does not assume ownership or jurisdiction over a disputed road solely through maintenance or repair activities. Authorizes the State to quitclaim ownership of roads in favor of counties. Effective July 1, 2050. (SB2761 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

