
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CROSSWALKS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pedestrian safety is
2 of the utmost importance for the State's residents. While the
3 modern convenience of the automobile has rendered commuting life
4 much easier, the accidents and fatalities that have occurred due
5 to such vehicles cannot be ignored. Failing to yield to
6 pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections has caused fatal
7 accidents that could have been avoided.

8 The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recorded
9 4,743 pedestrian fatalities and an estimated 76,000 pedestrian
10 injuries in 2012. On average, a pedestrian was killed every two
11 hours and injured every seven minutes in traffic crashes, with
12 seventy per cent of pedestrian fatalities occurring at non-
13 intersections and nearly ninety per cent during normal weather
14 conditions. This number increased from 4,432 in 2011 and 4,280
15 in 2010. In Hawaii, twenty-six pedestrian fatalities occurred
16 in 2012, accounting for 20.6 per cent of all traffic fatalities
17 in the State.



1 The legislature further finds that blinking crossing
2 signals installed at the deadliest and most accident prone
3 pedestrian crosswalks would provide greater public safety and
4 significantly save lives. The United States Department of
5 Transportation Federal Highway Administration has determined
6 that rectangular rapid flash beacons, a type of blinking
7 crossing signal, can enhance safety by reducing crashes between
8 vehicles and pedestrians at unsignalized intersections and mid-
9 block pedestrian crossings by increasing driver awareness of
10 potential pedestrian conflicts. Furthermore, according to a
11 study done in St. Petersburg, Florida, installation of
12 rectangular rapid-flashing beacons increased vehicle yields to
13 pedestrians up to eighty per cent. These systems have already
14 been installed and are in use on some of the military bases in
15 that state.

16 Furthermore, safety at crosswalks is consistent with Ke
17 Kanawai Mamalahoe, King Kamehameha I's law of the splintered
18 paddle, which is established under article IX, section 10, of
19 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii:

20 "Let every elderly person, woman and child lie by the
21 roadside in safety - [this] shall be a unique and



1 living symbol of the State's concern for public
2 safety."

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
4 department of transportation for immediate action to make
5 crosswalks and roadways safer for pedestrians by:

6 (1) Conducting a study to identify the crosswalks not at
7 intersections that have had the most fatalities and
8 pedestrian injuries in the State; and

9 (2) Installing rectangular rapid flash beacons at each of
10 those crosswalks in the State, beginning with the most
11 dangerous crosswalks.

12 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall conduct
13 a study to identify the crosswalks not at intersections that
14 have the most fatalities and pedestrian injuries in the State.
15 The crosswalks shall be ranked in order of priority based on the
16 rate of fatalities and pedestrian injuries.

17 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall install
18 rectangular rapid flash beacons at each crosswalk not at an
19 intersection in the State that has had a fatality or pedestrian
20 injury. The installations shall be in order of priority based
21 on the rankings determined by the study.



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1 For the purposes of this Act, "rectangular rapid flash
 2 beacon" shall be defined as user-actuated amber light emitting
 3 diodes that supplement warning signs at unsignalized
 4 intersections or mid-block crosswalks that can be activated by
 5 pedestrians manually by push button or passively by a pedestrian
 6 detection system. Rectangular rapid flash beacons shall include
 7 a light emitting diode rapid-flash system, stutter flash, or
 8 light emitting diode beacon.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
 10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so
 11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for
 12 installation of rectangular rapid flash beacons at crosswalks
 13 not at intersections in the State that have had a fatality or
 14 pedestrian injury.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 16 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY Gene Ward

Roy A. Buckle
J. Mark Matlock
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H.B. NO. 2495

Report Title:

Crosswalks; Pedestrian Safety; Appropriation.

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of transportation for conducting a study to identify crosswalks where pedestrian fatalities and injuries have occurred and requires the installation of rectangular rapid flash beacons, in order of priority based on the rankings determined by the study.

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