
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AUTONOMOUS MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2011, Honolulu
2 earned the dubious distinction of having the worst vehicular
3 traffic of any city in America. Traffic continues to be a
4 serious problem in our state's capital city, with Honolulu
5 holding the number two spot for worst traffic nationwide in both
6 2012 and 2013. The severity of the State's traffic congestion,
7 combined with the human error inherent in operating conventional
8 motor vehicles, has been nothing but deadly: according to the
9 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there were one
10 hundred nine traffic fatalities in the State in 2009.

11 Since that time, there has been a general increase in the
12 number of traffic fatalities, with one hundred thirteen in 2010,
13 one hundred in 2011, and one hundred twenty-six in 2012. While
14 Hawaii's overall population has continued to grow since 2009,
15 the fatality rate (measured against the number of licensed
16 drivers) is also on the rise.

17 The legislature also finds that human error accounts for up
18 to ninety-five per cent of vehicular collisions, and that



1 according to a 2010 data analysis by the Centers for Disease
2 Control, crash-related death costs in Hawaii are approximately
3 \$124,000,000 each year (medical costs and work loss costs).

4 The legislature further finds that in light of these grim
5 statistics, a modern and obvious alternative should be explored
6 in Hawaii - autonomous or "driverless" motor vehicles, which can
7 potentially save lives and reduce commuting times. The
8 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers has predicted
9 that seventy-five per cent of vehicles will be "driverless" by
10 2040. It would therefore benefit our state to prepare for
11 inevitable technological advances and authorize, for testing
12 purposes, the operation of autonomous vehicles. Thus far,
13 California, Florida, and Nevada have all approved driverless
14 vehicle testing on their roads, and Georgia is considering it as
15 well. Outside of the United States, Japan conducted its first
16 test of driverless vehicles on a public road in 2013, with the
17 United Kingdom scheduled to do the same in 2015.

18 The purpose of this Act is to authorize, for testing
19 purposes, the operation of autonomous vehicles in this state.

20 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
22 to read as follows:



1 **"PART . AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES**

2 **§286-A Authorization.** The director shall authorize, no
3 later than January 1, 2016, the development of an autonomous
4 vehicle testing program, to be administered by the department of
5 transportation.

6 **§286-B Application and approval process.** The department
7 shall establish, no later than January 1, 2017, an application
8 and approval process by which autonomous vehicle manufacturers
9 and other interested parties may seek to test autonomous
10 vehicles in the State. Prior to granting any approval for
11 testing, the department shall require, at a minimum,
12 satisfactory evidence of the following:

13 (a) The applicant's safety record;
14 (b) The applicant's insured or bonded status;
15 (c) The autonomous vehicle's safety features, including
16 the presence of a manual override feature; and

17 (d) The ease with which the autonomous vehicle's operator
18 can activate and deactivate the autonomous technology.

19 **§286-C Fees.** The department may assess any fees necessary
20 to cover the costs of application processing and program
21 administration.



1 **§286-D Rules.** The department shall adopt rules under
2 chapter 91 to implement this part.

3 **§286-E Penalties.** The department shall establish
4 administrative penalties for noncompliance with the requirements
5 of this part or with rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91.

6 **§286-F Reports to the legislature.** (a) No later than
7 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, and
8 beginning with the regular session of 2018, the director shall
9 submit a report to the legislature that addresses the following:

- 10 (1) The feasibility and safety implications of authorizing
11 the operation of autonomous vehicles beyond the
12 testing phase;
- 13 (2) The adoption or amendment of relevant administrative
14 rules issued pursuant to this part;
- 15 (3) Any additional legislative action that may be required
16 for the safe testing and operation of autonomous
17 vehicles; and
- 18 (4) Detailed information on the autonomous vehicle
19 manufacturers and other interested parties who
20 submitted applications pursuant to section 286-B
21 during the preceding twelve-month period."



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
 4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 5 2016-2017 for the establishment of the autonomous vehicle
 6 testing program and any associated costs.

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

9 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
 10 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
 11 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
 12 the new sections in this Act.

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.
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INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten signature: Andrew]
[Handwritten signature: A. Lopez]
[Handwritten signature: John P. ...]
[Handwritten signature: Karl ...]
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Report Title:

Autonomous Motor Vehicles; Testing

Description:

Authorizes for testing purposes the operation of autonomous vehicles in the State of Hawaii. Requires Department of Transportation to establish an application and approval process and report annually to the legislature. Makes an appropriation.

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

