
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Unlike other states, Hawaii is not linked to
2 other states by the federal interstate highway system or a
3 network of interconnected state and local highways.
4 Furthermore, for Hawaii, air transportation is often the only
5 efficient means of travel to another state, as well as between
6 Hawaii's major islands and between different harbors of an
7 island. An interisland and intra-island ferry system can serve
8 as an efficient alternative for transporting passengers, cargo,
9 farm produce, and motor vehicles.

10 Washington State Ferries, which is part of the Washington
11 State Department of Transportation, operates the largest ferry
12 system in the United States. Washington State Ferries employs
13 approximately eighteen hundred people and is Washington's most
14 popular tourist attraction. Alaska also has a successful ferry
15 system.

16 S.R. No. 116, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2015, adopted on
17 April 9, 2015, requests the department of transportation to
18 study the feasibility of establishing an interisland ferry



1 system, among other things, and report its findings and
2 recommendations to the legislature prior to the 2016 regular
3 session. However, the department may need additional funding
4 and time to undertake and complete the study.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
6 transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of
7 establishing an interisland and intra-island ferry system and to
8 make an appropriation for expenses accordingly.

9 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall conduct
10 a study on the feasibility of establishing an interisland and
11 intra-island ferry system similar to the ferry systems operated
12 by Washington State and other jurisdictions, including proposed
13 legislation. In conducting the study, the department shall:

- 14 (1) Include a comparison of various jurisdictions with
- 15 successful ferry systems including Washington and
- 16 Alaska;
- 17 (2) Emphasize compliance of the ferry system with the
- 18 State's environmental protection laws, including
- 19 chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 20 (3) Identify appropriate routes and harbors for the ferry
- 21 system;



- 1 (4) Consider the potential costs and revenues of the ferry
2 system;
- 3 (5) Include financing options for the ferry system,
4 including the establishment of rates or fees to
5 address operating costs;
- 6 (6) Consider the particulars of the ferry system,
7 including vessel design and speed, passenger capacity,
8 cargo capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility
9 with harbor infrastructure;
- 10 (7) Consider and determine the impacts the ferry system
11 would have on traffic congestion on all islands served
12 by the ferry; and
- 13 (8) Consider the impacts the ferry system could have on
14 the transmission of invasive species between islands
15 and determine inspection requirements to limit the
16 transmission of invasive species between islands.

17 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall report
18 its findings and recommendations, including proposed
19 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
20 to the convening of the regular session of 2018.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the
4 department of transportation to conduct a study on the
5 feasibility of establishing an interisland and intra-island
6 ferry system as described in this Act.

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

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



S.B. NO.

2618
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Interisland and Intra-island Ferry System; Feasibility Study;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of transportation to conduct a feasibility study of establishing an interisland and intra-island ferry system. Makes an appropriation for the study.
(CD1)

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