
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 does not enjoy the
2 benefit of being linked to other states, cities, or towns via
3 the federal interstate highway system or a network of
4 interconnected state and local highways. Air transportation is
5 currently the only efficient means of travel between Hawaii's
6 major islands. An interisland ferry system can serve as an
7 efficient alternative for transporting passengers, cargo, farm
8 produce, and motor vehicles.

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

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



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

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

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

15 (1) Include a comparison of various jurisdictions with
16 successful ferry systems including Washington and
17 Alaska;

18 (2) Emphasize compliance of an interisland ferry system
19 with the State's environmental protection laws,
20 including chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;



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

19 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall report
20 its findings and recommendations, including proposed



1 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
2 to the convening of the regular session of 2017.

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

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

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Interisland Ferry System; Feasibility Study; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of transportation to conduct a feasibility study of establishing an interisland ferry system. Makes an appropriation for the study. (SB2618 HD1)

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