

---

---

# 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



1 study the feasibility of establishing an interisland ferry  
2 system, among other things, and report its findings and  
3 recommendations to the legislature prior to the 2016 regular  
4 session. However, the department may need additional funding  
5 and time to undertake and 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 and intra-island ferry system and to  
9 make an appropriation for expenses accordingly.

10 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall conduct  
11 a study on the feasibility of establishing an interisland and  
12 intra-island ferry system similar to the ferry systems operated  
13 by Washington State and other jurisdictions, including proposed  
14 legislation. In 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 the ferry system with the  
19 State's environmental protection laws, including  
20 chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;



- 1           (3) Identify appropriate routes and harbors for the ferry  
2           system;
- 3           (4) Consider the potential costs and revenues of the ferry  
4           system;
- 5           (5) Include financing options for the ferry system,  
6           including the establishment of rates or fees to  
7           address operating costs;
- 8           (6) Consider the particulars of the ferry system,  
9           including vessel design and speed, passenger capacity,  
10          cargo capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility  
11          with harbor infrastructure;
- 12          (7) Consider and determine the impacts the ferry system  
13          would have on traffic congestion on all islands served  
14          by the ferry; and
- 15          (8) Consider the impacts the ferry system could have on  
16          the transmission of invasive species between islands  
17          and determine inspection requirements to limit the  
18          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 and intra-island  
8 ferry system as 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 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.  
(SB2618 HD2)

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

