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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AN UNDERWATER TUNNEL AND SUPPORTING ROADWAYS TO  
PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN EWA AND DOWNTOWN  
HONOLULU.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature find that the upcoming decades  
2 will bring tens of thousands of new homes to the leeward coast  
3 and nearby areas of west Oahu. Traffic experts predict that  
4 vehicular congestion will double or triple as a result of the  
5 growth in population. Completion of Honolulu's rail transit  
6 project, potential implementation of toll roads, and other  
7 traffic mitigation efforts, while helpful, will not be enough to  
8 provide the additional transportation capacity for west Oahu  
9 residents.

10           The legislature further finds that an underwater tunnel  
11 constructed at an appropriate location will provide residents of  
12 the leeward coast with a much more direct route to downtown  
13 Honolulu, which will reduce travel time and save transportation  
14 expenses.

15           The legislature believes that, if invited to participate in  
16 the planning, the United States Navy will not oppose the



1 construction of an underwater tunnel because naval vessels  
2 commonly traverse underwater tunnels on the east coast of the  
3 United States and throughout the world.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
5 transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of a  
6 private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an  
7 underwater tunnel for vehicle traffic to provide a more direct  
8 connection between Ewa and downtown Honolulu along with the  
9 expansion of roadways as necessary to maximize use of the  
10 tunnel.

11 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall conduct  
12 a study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to  
13 design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for vehicle  
14 traffic to provide a more direct connection between Ewa and  
15 downtown Honolulu along with the expansion of roadways as  
16 necessary to maximize use of the tunnel. The study shall  
17 include estimates on the appropriate toll fees for use of the  
18 tunnel if a tunnel is feasible. The study shall be submitted to  
19 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the regular  
20 session of 2022.



1           The department of transportation may contract with a  
2 private entity to conduct the study.

3           SECTION 3. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
4 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$1,500,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
6 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2020-2021.

7           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
8 obligation bond revenues issued pursuant to section 3 the sum of  
9 \$1,500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
10 year 2020-2021 for a study on the feasibility of a private-  
11 public partnership to design, build, and operate an underwater  
12 tunnel for vehicle traffic to provide a more direct connection  
13 between Ewa and downtown Honolulu along with the expansion of  
14 roadways as necessary to maximize use of the tunnel.

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

17           SECTION 5. The appropriation made for the capital  
18 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
19 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
20 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
21 unencumbered as of June 30, 2022, shall lapse as of that date.



# H.B. NO. 1950

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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JAN 17 2020



# H.B. NO. 1950

**Report Title:**

DOT; Underwater Tunnel; Feasibility Study; Private-Public Partnership; Bond; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for vehicle traffic to provide a more direct connection between Ewa and downtown Honolulu along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to maximize use of the tunnel. Authorizes general obligation bonds. Appropriates funds.

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

