

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that transforming  
2       Hawaii's surface transportation systems and infrastructure to  
3       prioritize walking, rolling, bicycling, and public transit is at  
4       the nexus of the State's commitments to public health, safety,  
5       economic vitality, and environmental sustainability. The most  
6       important component of this transformation is ensuring that  
7       every child in Hawaii enjoys the infrastructure, social support,  
8       confidence, and skills to walk, roll, bike, or bus to school.

9       The legislature further finds that ensuring safe routes for  
10      every keiki will not only protect our most vulnerable road  
11      users, but also serves as a long-term investment in the future  
12      of mobility.

13      The legislature also finds that as a result of decades of  
14      automobile-centric planning and development, there are  
15      formidable barriers to this transformation. These barriers  
16      include a lack of complete, safe, and comfortable bike and  
17      pedestrian networks; burdensome and complicated funding



1 mechanisms for safe routes to school programs and community  
2 engagement; a lack of a state safe routes to school plan that  
3 creates performance measures, goals, strategies, and  
4 accountability; and a lack of coordination of safe routes to  
5 school promotion among state and county agencies and community-  
6 based organizations.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Establish the safe routes to school advisory committee  
9 to coordinate with the department of transportation  
10 and other necessary stakeholders to develop a safe  
11 routes to school plan that sets goals for safe routes  
12 to school programming within the state, defines roles  
13 and responsibilities, ensures participation of  
14 vulnerable populations, and makes recommendations for  
15 optimizing the use of available state and federal  
16 funds for safe routes to school programs; and  
17 (2) Appropriate funds for the hiring of a full-time safe  
18 routes to school coordinator within the department of  
19 transportation.

20 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a safe routes to  
21 school advisory committee within the highway division of the



1 department of transportation for administrative purposes. The  
2 purpose of the advisory committee is to advise the State on  
3 strategies to ensure that all children in the State are able to  
4 safely bike, walk, roll, or bus to school. The advisory  
5 committee shall develop a comprehensive statewide safe routes to  
6 school strategic plan, that shall at a minimum:

- 7 (1) Identify ways to stabilize the safe routes special  
8 fund distribution mechanism;
- 9 (2) Recommend strategies to streamline safe routes to  
10 school program funding to make it easier for schools  
11 and communities to apply for and receive funds;
- 12 (3) Identify and recommend funding mechanisms, planning  
13 processes, and programming that are inclusive and  
14 equitable; and
- 15 (4) Recommend strategies to prioritize safe routes to  
16 school programming serving students attending schools  
17 that receive federal funds pursuant to Title I of the  
18 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as  
19 amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

20 (b) The advisory committee shall make publicly available  
21 its final strategic plan on or before November 1, 2025.



(c) The advisory committee shall submit a copy of its strategic plan, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2026.

(d) The advisory committee shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The State of Hawaii safe routes to school coordinator;
- (2) The physical activity and nutrition coordinator within the department of health;
- (3) The school wellness coordinator within the department of health;
- (4) A representative of the department of education;
- (5) A representative of the Honolulu police department;
- (6) A representative of the Kauai police department;
- (7) A representative of the Hawaii police department;
- (8) A representative of the Maui police department;
- (9) The city and county of Honolulu safe routes to school coordinator;
- (10) The county of Kauai safe routes to school coordinator;
- (11) The county of Hawaii safe routes to school coordinator; and



1           (12) The county of Maui safe routes to school coordinator.

2           (e) The advisory committee shall select a chair from  
3 amongst its members, who shall invite the following individuals  
4 to become members of the advisory committee:

5           (1) A representative of the Maui metropolitan planning  
6 organization;

7           (2) A representative of Papa Ola Lokahi;

8           (3) A representative of the Hawaii Bicycling League;

9           (4) A representative of the Hawaii Public Health

10           Institute; and

11           (5) Any other members recommended by the advisory  
12 committee.

13           (f) The advisory committee shall meet at least monthly to  
14 review the State's progress in implementing its safe routes to  
15 school program and shall make recommendations to the department  
16 of transportation on at least a bi-annual basis. The advisory  
17 committee may meet and subsequently make recommendations at  
18 additional times as determined by a majority of the members.

19           (g) The members of the safe routes to school advisory  
20 committee shall serve without compensation but shall be



1 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary  
2 for the performance of their duties.

3 (h) The advisory committee shall cease to exist on  
4 June 30, 2026.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
8 staffing of the department of transportation pursuant to this  
9 Act, including the hiring of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
10 safe routes to school coordinator position and for any necessary  
11 facilities and equipment.

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

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
15 provided that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



# S.B. NO. 2544

**Report Title:**

Safe Routes to School Program; Safe Routes to School Advisory Committee; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Safe Routes to School advisory committee to develop a strategic plan for the Safe Routes to School Program by 11/1/2025. Appropriates funds for the hiring of a full-time Safe Routes to School coordinator.

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