
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the fastest growing
2 contributor to the increasing cost of living in Hawaii is the
3 rising cost of transportation. Due to the high cost of fossil
4 fuels and a lack of cheaper transit options, Hawaii residents
5 already pay among the highest costs to commute per capita
6 anywhere in the country. The United States Bureau of Labor
7 Statistics has found that between December 2020 and December
8 2021, auto-related costs rose an astonishing twenty-three per
9 cent, accelerating a trend of increasing transit costs
10 contributing to a rapidly escalating cost of living.

11 The legislature further finds that because of a lack of
12 safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting infrastructure, many
13 Hawaii households are forced to pay for multiple cars, often one
14 for each member of the family. On average, families spend an
15 additional \$13,000 per year per vehicle. Access to safe, cost
16 efficient pedestrian and bicycle commuting infrastructure can
17 reduce the total number of cars a family must own, saving tens



1 of thousands of dollars per year and dramatically reducing
2 living costs.

3 The legislature further finds that numerous other states
4 have prioritized the installation of cost efficient pedestrian
5 and bicycle commuting infrastructure. At least twenty other
6 states have established dedicated funding and staff for this
7 purpose. The legislature recently increased overall state
8 funding available to the department of transportation.
9 Additionally, the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
10 will provide billions of dollars in competitive grant
11 opportunities over the next five years, with ample opportunities
12 to fund cost efficient pedestrian and bicycle commuting
13 infrastructure. However, in recent years, millions of dollars
14 in federal funding for infrastructure available to the
15 department of transportation has gone unspent. Numerous state
16 transportation projects have been constructed or improved
17 without meeting the intent of existing laws requiring complete
18 streets to be built with safe low user cost transit options
19 serving all users. Finally, the department of transportation
20 has not made potential projects a priority to qualify for
21 federal funding.



1 The purpose of this Act is to help reduce the cost of
2 transportation for residents and ensure the department of
3 transportation achieves its statutory mandate of providing safe
4 networks of cost efficient pedestrian and bicycle commuting
5 infrastructure by:

6 (1) Establishing expenditure requirements for funding
7 pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and projects;
8 and

9 (2) Providing dedicated staff within the department of
10 transportation to focus on pursuing and maximizing
11 grant applications through the Infrastructure
12 Investment and Jobs Act and other opportunities.

13 SECTION 2 Chapter 264, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
14 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
15 read as follows:

16 "§264- Expenditures for pedestrian and bicycle
17 infrastructure and projects. A minimum of per cent of all
18 funds expended by the department of transportation each biennium
19 shall be for safe, protected pedestrian and bicycle
20 infrastructure pursuant to part X of chapter 264, of which a
21 minimum of per cent shall be expended on projects having a



1 primary focus on safe, protected pedestrian and bicycle
2 infrastructure pursuant to part X of chapter 264."

3 SECTION 3. There is established in the department of
4 transportation two grant writing positions whose primary goal
5 shall be to pursue, coordinate, and maximize funding from
6 federal sources such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
7 Act.

8 SECTION 4. All pedestrian and bicycle facilities shall
9 meet minimum ADA standards and be designed to accommodate
10 unaccompanied users eight years old through eighty years old
11 safely and comfortably.

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
15 two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) grant writing positions
16 within the department of transportation.

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

19 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2023;
2 provided that sections 3 and 5 shall take effect on July 1,
3 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Transportation; Pedestrian and Bicycle
Infrastructure; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Transportation to increase funding, pursue grants, and work on projects focusing on safe, low user cost pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Appropriates funds for two grant writing positions. Effective 1/1/2023. (SD1)

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