

JAN 20 2023

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 recent corruption
2 discovered at state and county agencies cannot be tolerated.
3 Preventing corruption requires transparency and accountability
4 to ensure public agencies are effective, efficient, and
5 successfully provide services in the public interest. The
6 legislature further finds that the department of transportation
7 manages and spends more taxpayer dollars than nearly any other
8 state agency. Most departments of transportation throughout the
9 country have robust mechanisms to prevent corruption and
10 mismanagement, including publicly transparent processes to
11 evaluate, select, and track projects; oversight commissions of
12 expert stakeholders to independently monitor, evaluate, and
13 provide guidance to the department and policymakers; and regular
14 robust reporting that meaningfully measures and assesses overall
15 progress toward public policy goals. However, similar
16 mechanisms to prevent corruption or mismanagement at Hawaii's
17 department of transportation do not currently exist.



1 In addition to preventing corruption, robust transparency
2 and accountability are necessary to ensure that the state
3 government provides effective and efficient services in the
4 public interest. Unfortunately, Hawaii currently has among the
5 worst traffic fatality rates in the country, including the
6 nation's highest senior citizen pedestrian fatality rate.
7 Hawaii also has among the worst traffic congestion in the
8 country and among the highest cost of transportation, which
9 greatly increases the cost of living for residents in rural and
10 urban areas alike.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to help the
12 department of transportation prevent corruption and improve
13 transportation outcomes by establishing mechanisms enabling
14 basic transparency and accountability for transportation efforts
15 by:

- 16 (1) Requiring transparency in transportation project
17 evaluation, selection, and tracking; and
- 18 (2) Adding to the mission of the state highway safety
19 council to make the council an independently led group
20 of expert stakeholders that may review the
21 department's work to ensure transparency and provide



1 guidance to the department and legislature to help
2 achieve state goals and outcomes.

3 SECTION 2. Section 286-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "**§286-5 State highway safety and modernization council.**

6 (a) There is established within the department of
7 transportation for administrative purposes the Hawaii highway
8 safety and modernization council. [~~The director of~~
9 transportation shall serve as its chairperson.] The council
10 shall be chaired on an annually rotating basis between the
11 chairpersons of the respective committees of the house of
12 representatives and senate having jurisdiction over
13 transportation, or their designees. The following or their
14 designated representatives shall be members of the council: the
15 chief justice, the attorney general, the director of health,
16 the superintendent of education, the chairperson and executive
17 director of the charter school commission, the [~~president~~]
18 chairperson of the University of Hawaii[7] at Manoa department
19 of urban and regional planning, the co-chairpersons of the
20 Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, the
21 director of the office of planning and sustainable development,



1 the chief energy officer of the Hawaii state energy office, a
2 representative of the college of tropical agriculture and human
3 resources of the university of Hawaii having expertise in
4 landscaping, the chairperson of the house of representatives
5 standing committee having jurisdiction over transportation, the
6 chairperson of the senate standing committee having jurisdiction
7 over transportation, the chairperson of each of the county
8 highway safety councils established under section 286-6, and not
9 more than [twenty] twelve other persons who shall be appointed
10 by the governor for a three-year term as follows:

- 11 (1) One member from an organization representing senior
12 citizens;
- 13 (2) One member from an organization representing
14 bicyclists;
- 15 (3) One member from an organization having a focus on
16 micro-mobility;
- 17 (4) One member from an organization having a focus on
18 transportation, planning, and improvement;
- 19 (5) One member from an organization having a focus on
20 reducing the cost of transportation for low-income
21 communities;



1 (6) One member from an organization representing labor and
2 construction;

3 (7) One member from an organization representing trucking
4 and cargo carriers;

5 (8) One member from an organization having a focus on the
6 electrification of transportation;

7 (9) One member from an organization having a focus on
8 expanding trees and foliage and reducing urban heat;
9 and

10 (10) Up to three members on the basis of their interest in
11 [highway] transportation safety[-], modernization, and
12 related state goals.

13 (b) The state highway safety and modernization council
14 shall [advise]:

15 (1) Ensure transparency and oversight in programs,
16 projects, decisions, and spending related to ground
17 transportation in the department of transportation;

18 (2) Establish metrics and benchmarks for the department of
19 transportation to ensure progress on state goals
20 related to ground transportation, safety, and
21 modernization and other related goals;



1 (3) Review projects in development and make
2 recommendations for how each might be improved, if
3 warranted, to better meet state goals, before project
4 plans and designs are finalized;

5 (4) Provide direction to the department and make
6 recommendations to the legislature as necessary to
7 ensure progress on state goals related to ground
8 transportation, safety, modernization, and other
9 related goals;

10 (5) Advise the governor, legislature, and public on
11 matters relating to the programs [~~and~~], activities,
12 projects, outcomes, and recommendations of the State
13 in the field of [~~highway~~] transportation safety[~~-~~] and
14 modernization; and

15 (6) Submit an annual report to the department of
16 transportation that reflects the work,
17 responsibilities, and recommendations of the council.

18 (c) The department of transportation shall:

19 (1) Provide regular updates on ground transportation
20 plans, projects, progress, and any other relevant



S.B. NO. 1087

Report Title:

State Highway Safety and Modernization Council; Composition;
Duties

Description:

Renames the state highway safety council as the state highway safety and modernization council and amends the composition and duties of the council.

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

