
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 traffic-related
2 deaths and fatalities in the State have significantly increased
3 over the past decade. In 2014, there were ninety-five deaths
4 and three hundred seventy-eight serious injuries in the State.
5 In 2019, Hawaii led the nation in pedestrian deaths of kupuna.
6 In 2022, these numbers grew to a record one hundred seventeen
7 deaths and five hundred seventy-two serious injuries. Hawaii's
8 students are also frequently hit by cars, and unfortunately all
9 too often seriously injured or killed while walking or biking to
10 school.

11 The legislature also finds that other places, including
12 cities of similar size and population to Honolulu, have
13 successfully reduced traffic-related fatalities, in some years
14 to zero, by making safety the priority for project spending and
15 investing in safer infrastructure accordingly.

16 However, the legislature recognizes that, in Hawaii,
17 decades of automobile-centric planning and development have



1 created formidable barriers to safe walking and bicycling,
2 especially for students and kupuna. These barriers include a
3 lack of complete, protected, and comfortable bike and pedestrian
4 networks; burdensome and complicated funding mechanisms for safe
5 routes projects; complicated coordination between state and
6 county agencies and community-based organizations to identify
7 and prioritize projects; and most of all a lack of dedicated
8 funding. The legislature further finds the safe routes to
9 schools program itself is no longer working, as federal funding
10 has stalled, state funding has been separated from the program,
11 and engagement with community stakeholders has slowed.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to re-prioritize
13 the safety of keiki and kupuna by fixing and simplifying the
14 safe routes to schools program, expanding it to include safe
15 routes for all people, re-engage community stakeholders, and
16 appropriate a meaningful \$50,000,000 to move priority projects
17 and save lives, by:

18 (1) Establishing within the department of transportation,
19 a safe routes for people implementation program to
20 develop strategies and facilitate transportation-
21 related projects that will ensure that keiki and



1 kupuna are able to safely walk, bike, or roll to
2 common destinations through the Vision Zero policy
3 adopted by the department and county transportation
4 departments pursuant to section 286-7.5, Hawaii
5 Revised Statutes; the ground transportation facilities
6 plans developed and implemented by the department of
7 transportation and counties pursuant to section
8 264-142, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and the safe routes
9 to school program under section 291C-3, Hawaii Revised
10 Statutes;

11 (2) Establishing a safe routes for people implementation
12 committee to advise the State in carrying out the
13 purposes of the safe routes for people implementation
14 program;

15 (3) Renaming the safe routes to schools special fund to
16 the safe routes for people special fund;

17 (4) Authorizing the safe routes for people implementation
18 committee to develop an application process for
19 projects under the safe routes to school program and
20 determine awards for selected projects; and



1 (5) Appropriating \$50,000,000 for priority projects that
2 will improve safety and allow keiki and kupuna to
3 safely walk, bike, or roll to common destinations.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
6 designated and to read as follows:

7 "§286-A Safe routes for people implementation program;
8 establishment. There is established within the department of
9 transportation for administrative purposes only, a safe routes
10 for people implementation program to develop strategies and
11 facilitate transportation-related projects that will ensure that
12 keiki and kupuna are able to safely walk, bike, or roll to
13 common destinations through the Vision Zero policy adopted by
14 the department and county transportation departments pursuant to
15 section 286-7.5, ground transportation facilities plans
16 developed and implemented by the department of transportation
17 and counties pursuant to section 264-142, and projects
18 authorized under the safe routes to school program pursuant to
19 section 291C-3.

20 §286-B Safe routes for people implementation committee.

21 (a) There is established within the department for



1 administrative purposes only, a safe routes for people
2 implementation committee to advise the State in carrying out the
3 purposes of the safe routes for people implementation program.

4 Specifically, the safe routes for people implementation
5 committee shall:

6 (1) Develop recommendations for any additional metrics or
7 benchmarks to ensure progress toward improving safety
8 by achieving the department's policy goals and plans
9 adopted and implemented pursuant to sections 286-7.5
10 and 264-142;

11 (2) Develop recommendations for federal and other grant
12 funding opportunities that may help achieve the
13 department's policy goals and plans adopted and
14 implemented pursuant to sections 286-7.5 and 264-142;

15 (3) Develop recommendations to facilitate efforts by
16 communities to apply for and receive projects pursuant
17 to sections 286-7.5, 264-142, and 291C-3, and
18 streamline project development and implementation
19 between communities and the department;

20 (4) Review project proposals and select priority projects
21 pursuant to sections 286-7.5, 264-142, and 291C-3 to



1 be funded through the safe routes for people
2 implementation program or otherwise be prioritized and
3 implemented by the department; and

4 (5) Submit annual reports on the activities and
5 recommendations of the safe routes for people
6 implementation program to the governor and legislature
7 no later than December 31 of each year.

8 (b) The safe routes for people implementation committee
9 shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) The chairs of the house of representatives standing
11 committee and the senate standing committee with
12 primary jurisdiction over transportation, who shall
13 serve as co-chairs;

14 (2) The deputy director of the department's highways
15 division;

16 (3) The department's safe routes to school program
17 coordinator;

18 (4) One member representing the physical activity and
19 nutrition section of the department of health's
20 chronic disease prevention and health promotion
21 division;



- 1 (5) One member representing the department of education;
- 2 (6) The chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
- 3 adaptation commission;
- 4 (7) One member representing the Hawaii state energy
- 5 office;
- 6 (8) One member representing the Hawaii state council on
- 7 developmental disabilities;
- 8 (9) One member representing each county department of
- 9 transportation;
- 10 (10) One member representing an organization with a focus
- 11 on bicycling;
- 12 (11) One member representing an organization with a focus
- 13 on senior citizens;
- 14 (12) One member representing organizations that understand
- 15 the ways families with young children navigate through
- 16 the State;
- 17 (13) One member representing an organization with a focus
- 18 on public health and mobility; and
- 19 (14) One member representing an organization with a focus
- 20 on transportation equity and mobility.



1 In addition to the members listed in this subsection, the
2 co-chairs of the committee may request the participation or
3 input of members of the public; experts in the field; and
4 county, state, or federal officials or others as necessary.

5 (c) The members of the safe routes for people
6 implementation committee shall be nominated and, by and with the
7 advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor to
8 serve for a term of three years each. Except as provided in
9 this section, the appointment, tenure, and removal of the
10 members and the filling of vacancies on the committee shall be
11 as provided in section 26-34.

12 (d) Members of the safe routes for people implementation
13 committee shall serve without compensation but shall be
14 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary
15 for the performance of their duties.

16 (e) No member of the safe routes for people implementation
17 committee shall be subject to chapter 84, solely because of the
18 member's service on the committee.

19 (f) As used in this section, "department" means the
20 department of transportation."



1 SECTION 3. Section 291C-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§291C-3 State ~~[and county]~~ safe routes to school
4 ~~[programs,]~~ program; coordinators; grants; reports. (a) There
5 is established, within the department of transportation, a safe
6 routes to school program that shall, among other things, enhance
7 traffic safety around Hawaii's schools, enable and encourage
8 children to walk and bicycle to school, and make bicycling and
9 walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation
10 alternative.

11 (b) There is created, within the department of
12 transportation, the position of safe routes to school program
13 coordinator. The safe routes to school program coordinator
14 shall provide a central point of contact for the federal safe
15 routes to school program.

16 (c) ~~[A county designated office, through the county safe~~
17 ~~routes to school program coordinator, and]~~ The safe routes for
18 people implementation committee, in consultation with the
19 department of education, department of health, and Hawaii
20 Association of Independent Schools, shall provide safe routes to
21 school funds for school-based and community-based workshops and



1 infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects that will reduce
2 vehicular traffic and congestion, encourage walking and
3 bicycling, and promote health and safety around Hawaii's
4 schools.

5 (d) The [~~legislature shall appropriate~~] department of
6 transportation, in conjunction with the safe routes for people
7 implementation committee, shall expend funds from the safe
8 routes [~~to school program~~] for people special fund [~~to the~~
9 counties] to be used for the implementation of [~~county~~] safe
10 routes to school program projects and projects pursuant to
11 section 286-B(a)(3) and (4). No later than twenty days prior to
12 the convening of each regular session, [~~each county~~] the safe
13 routes for people implementation committee shall submit to the
14 legislature an annual report on the status and progress of [~~its~~
15 ~~county~~] the safe routes to school program, including an
16 accounting of all grants provided through the program and a
17 timeline for future grant awards.

18 (e) Implementation of the [~~county~~] safe routes to school
19 program shall take into consideration the need to:



- 1 [~~(1)~~] ~~Fill a permanent, full-time position of safe routes to~~
2 ~~school coordinator within the county designated~~
3 ~~office;~~
- 4 [~~(2)~~] (1) Maximize the participation of school officials
5 and stakeholder groups in the community;
- 6 [~~(3)~~] (2) Work in conjunction with county designated safe
7 routes to school stakeholders and train volunteer
8 facilitators for school-based workshops and community-
9 based projects, including flexible training schedules;
- 10 [~~(4)~~] (3) Train potential grant requestors and stakeholder
11 groups in federal and state requirements necessary for
12 procurement, contracts, design, and construction; and
- 13 [~~(5)~~] (4) Allocate not less than ten per cent and not more
14 than thirty per cent of safe routes [~~to school~~] for
15 people funds intended for safe routes to school
16 projects for non-infrastructure-related activities or
17 activities to encourage walking and bicycling to
18 school, public awareness campaigns, student sessions
19 on bicycle and pedestrian safety, or other non-
20 infrastructure activities as prescribed under section
21 1404 of the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible,



1 Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for
2 Users, Public Law No. 109-59.

3 ~~[(f) Each grant proposal in the county safe routes to~~
4 ~~school program shall:~~

5 ~~(1) Identify the modes of travel used by students to get~~
6 ~~to school;~~

7 ~~(2) Determine the number of students using each mode of~~
8 ~~travel;~~

9 ~~(3) Survey the parents of each student to gather~~
10 ~~information regarding the factors involved in the~~
11 ~~choice of transportation mode for the student and,~~
12 ~~where the student travels by automobile or bus,~~
13 ~~conditions that would need to change for the parent to~~
14 ~~permit the student to walk or ride a bicycle to~~
15 ~~school, and obstacles to walking and biking; and~~

16 ~~(4) Identify traffic infrastructure elements in the~~
17 ~~immediate vicinity of each school, including multi-~~
18 ~~lane roadways, speed limits, and traffic calming~~
19 ~~features that, either by their presence or absence,~~
20 ~~contribute to the use of automobiles as a student's~~
21 ~~mode of travel to school.~~



1 ~~(g)~~ (f) The ~~[director of transportation,~~ safe routes
2 for people implementation committee, in consultation with
3 organizations that have received non-infrastructure and pending
4 infrastructure grants, shall develop a streamlined process for
5 the safe routes to school program that meets federal and state
6 requirements, simplifies the grant proposal application process,
7 and expedites release of funding after completion of school-based
8 and community-based projects for infrastructure and non-
9 infrastructure.

10 ~~(h)~~ (g) The director of transportation shall submit to
11 the legislature an annual report of the status and progress of
12 the safe routes to school program, including an accounting of
13 all grants provided through the program and a timeline for
14 future grant awards, no later than twenty days prior to the
15 convening of each regular session.

16 ~~(i)~~ (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed as
17 requiring actions or omissions that would render the State
18 ineligible to receive funds for the safe routes to school
19 program under the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible,
20 Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Public
21 Law No. 109-59."



1 SECTION 4. Section 291C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~§291C-4 Safe routes [to school program] for people~~
4 ~~special fund; establishment.~~ (a) There is established in the
5 state treasury the safe routes ~~[to school program]~~ for people
6 special fund, into which shall be deposited:

7 (1) Legislative appropriations and federal or private
8 grants, gifts, and donations made to the safe routes
9 for people implementation program for deposit into the
10 fund;

11 (2) Interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in the
12 fund;

13 [~~1~~] (3) Assessments collected for speeding in a school
14 zone, pursuant to section 291C-104; and

15 [~~2~~] (4) Safe routes to school program surcharges
16 collected in accordance with sections 291-16 and
17 291C-5.

18 (b) The moneys in the special fund shall be administered
19 and expended by the department of transportation, in conjunction
20 with the safe routes for people implementation committee, to:



1 (1) Fund projects selected and approved by the safe routes
2 for people implementation committee pursuant to
3 section 286-B;

4 (2) Distribute to counties for the implementation of
5 projects selected and approved by the safe routes for
6 people implementation committee; provided that the
7 department of transportation may require matching
8 funds from a respective county based on the nature and
9 funding requirements of the proposed project; and

10 (3) Fund projects selected and approved by the safe routes
11 for people implementation committee under the safe
12 routes to school program pursuant to section 291C-3.

13 (c) The department of transportation shall submit an
14 annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
15 to the convening of each regular session that outlines the
16 receipts of, and expenditures from, the special fund."

17 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000,000 or so
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
20 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2024-2025 to address bicycle and pedestrian facilities in
2 state and county transportation systems.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section
6 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
7 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
8 the new sections in this Act.

9 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



Report Title:

Traffic Safety; Keiki and Kupuna; Safe Routes to School Program; Safe Routes for People Implementation Program; Safe Routes for People Implementation Committee; Safe Routes for People Special Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Safe Routes for People Implementation Program and Safe Routes for People Implementation Committee to develop strategies and facilitate transportation-related projects that ensure the safety of keiki and kupuna using ground transportation facilities. Authorizes the Safe Routes for People Implementation Committee to develop the application process under the Safe Routes to School Program. Renames the Safe Routes to Schools Program Special Fund to the Safe Routes for People Special Fund and amends its purpose. Appropriates funds. (SD1)

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