

JAN 19 2024

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that urban temperatures  
2 are expected to rise significantly, particularly due to the loss  
3 of shade and increase in concrete in urban areas, such as  
4 highways. The difference in temperatures on an urban street  
5 having trees and cooling strategies versus one not having trees  
6 and cooling strategies can be as much as fifteen to twenty  
7 degrees on a hot day. During hot summers, extreme heat can lead  
8 to death and contribute to the loss of economic activity. The  
9 proliferation of hardening structures and concrete throughout  
10 Hawaii also impacts the visitor experience, which has been noted  
11 by foreign visitor bureaus. Studies have also found that  
12 residents' stress levels and quality of life are also impacted  
13 in urban areas, and that green, cool urban environments can help  
14 to reduce stress and improve mental and physical health. The  
15 legislature believes that efforts to mitigate the effects of  
16 increasing temperatures necessitates urgent action.



1           The legislature notes that the cost of maintaining greener  
2 highway corridors is estimated to be \$60,000 per mile. The  
3 legislature also notes that new temperature mitigation  
4 techniques and strategies used around the world have shown that  
5 this cost can be reduced, with minimal or no regular maintenance  
6 required, by using appropriate plant species. The legislature  
7 also believes that making the State's highway corridors greener  
8 now will help to reduce the potential financial burden placed on  
9 taxpayers in the future.

10           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the  
11 greener highway corridors pilot project to improve the H-1  
12 freeway corridor with greenery.

13           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
14 of transportation the greener highway corridors pilot project to  
15 be administered by a representative of the department of  
16 transportation having expertise in arboriculture, who shall be  
17 selected by the director of transportation.

18           (b) The purpose of the pilot project shall be to reduce  
19 urban temperatures, sequester carbon emissions, reduce noise in  
20 areas surrounding the H-1 freeway, and improve the visual  
21 appearance of the H-1 freeway.



1 (c) The department of transportation shall select one or  
2 more portions of the H-1 freeway corridor located between Middle  
3 Street and Kapahulu Avenue in which to plant vegetation for the  
4 pilot project.

5 (d) The department of transportation shall submit a report  
6 on the status of the pilot project to the legislature no later  
7 than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session,  
8 and a final report not later than twenty days prior to the  
9 convening of the regular session of .

10 (e) The pilot project shall be dissolved on June 30, .

11 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII, of  
12 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii and sections 37-91 and  
13 37-93, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined  
14 that the appropriation contained in this Act will cause the  
15 state general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025  
16 to be exceeded by \$ , or per cent. The reasons  
17 for exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling are that the  
18 appropriation made in this Act appropriation necessary to serve  
19 the public interest and to meet the need provided for by this  
20 Act.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
4 implementation of the greener highway corridors pilot project  
5 pursuant to this Act.

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

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. L.', is written over a horizontal line.

# S.B. NO. 2742

**Report Title:**

Department of Transportation; Greener Highway Corridors; H-1 Freeway; Pilot Project; Appropriations; General Fund Expenditure Ceiling Exceeded

**Description:**

Establishes the greener highway corridors pilot project to improve the H-1 freeway corridor with greenery. Appropriates moneys. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

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

