
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sustainable design
2 concepts for public infrastructure incorporate green vegetation
3 and trees to decrease urban temperatures, reduce carbon
4 emissions, improve air quality, and capture water to replenish
5 the water table. The effects of climate change have made the
6 implementation of sustainable design concepts more critical, as
7 each passing year has seen increased temperatures and other
8 impacts from climate change.

9 The legislature also finds that studies have determined
10 that people who live in areas that have more trees and green
11 space are less likely to develop acute respiratory symptoms and
12 die of heart disease or respiratory disease. Studies have also
13 found that green vegetation, trees, and properly designed and
14 well-maintained infrastructure can also produce significant
15 improvements to mental health and have positive psychological
16 and quality of life benefits in a community. For example, the
17 Walt Disney Company uses these principles in park design,



1 including painting of infrastructure such as trash cans and
2 streetlights in a standard shade of neutral green to blend into
3 the surrounding environment to improve the quality of experience
4 for visitors. Similar practices can be done in local
5 communities to produce mental health and quality of life
6 benefits.

7 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is world-renowned
8 for its lush vegetation, and citizens and tourists actively seek
9 out green spaces. Increasing the number of parks and green
10 spaces in Honolulu's urban core will increase the quality of
11 life of residents and visitors.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the
13 quality of life in the State by:

- 14 (1) Establishing objectives and policies for
15 transportation systems, infrastructure, and projects
16 to incorporate green infrastructure; and
17 (2) Establishing a green transportation infrastructure
18 task force to examine, evaluate, and develop best
19 practices for the department of transportation to
20 further guide, design, implement, and maintain green



1 transportation infrastructure in transportation
2 systems and projects.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 264, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§264- Green transportation infrastructure. (a)
7 Planning for transportation systems, infrastructure, and
8 projects shall incorporate green infrastructure to achieve the
9 following climate and sustainability design objectives:

10 (1) Minimizing stormwater runoff and replenishment of the
11 water table;

12 (2) Reducing the urban heat island effect by providing
13 shade that reduces heat absorption over hardened
14 surfaces;

15 (3) Providing cooler shaded transit for pedestrians,
16 bicycle users, and micro-mobility users; and

17 (4) Encouraging the removal, sequestration, and storage of
18 pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

19 (b) Planning for transportation systems, infrastructure,
20 and projects shall utilize green infrastructure to achieve life
21 design objectives, including:



1 (1) Creating a visual and sound barrier between vehicles
2 and other modes of pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-
3 modal transit to enhance the quality of
4 transportation;

5 (2) Creating a visual and sound barrier between vehicles
6 and surrounding communities to enhance quality of
7 life;

8 (3) Incorporating live foliage, trees, and green
9 infrastructure, to the greatest extent possible, to
10 blend transportation infrastructure into the State's
11 natural environment and reflect a state sense of
12 place;

13 (4) Finishing non-travel exterior exposed appurtenances
14 and hardened surfaces not covered in foliage or green
15 infrastructure with a standardized paint scheme to
16 protect against weathering, blend appropriately with
17 the State's natural environment, and enhance a state
18 sense of place; and

19 (5) Requiring the department of transportation and its
20 contractors to adopt uniform best practices when
21 planting, caring for, and maintaining trees and green



1 infrastructure by following ANSI A300 standards for
2 tree care practices.

3 (c) The director of transportation may grant exemptions to
4 certain projects in instances where safety is a concern or other
5 considerations as necessary.

6 (d) As used in this section, "green infrastructure" means
7 the range of measures that use plant, tree, or soil systems with
8 an expected life span of at least twenty years designed to
9 reduce carbon footprints, enhance shade, reduce temperatures,
10 reduce stormwater flow to sewer systems or surface waters, and
11 meet the State's climate and sustainability goals."

12 SECTION 3. Section 264-143, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) When planning, designing, and implementing ground
15 transportation infrastructure for each project pursuant to this
16 part, the department shall endeavor to:

- 17 (1) Assess and maximize total throughput of people across
18 all modes of transportation;
- 19 (2) Achieve any goals described in the complete streets
20 policy adopted pursuant to section 264-20.5;
- 21 (3) Reduce vehicle miles traveled;



- 1 (4) Decrease the percentage of single occupancy vehicles
- 2 in the State's mode share;
- 3 (5) Provide equity for all communities and users;
- 4 (6) Improve safety and achieve any goals described in the
- 5 vision zero policy adopted pursuant to section
- 6 286-7.5;
- 7 (7) Reduce user cost of transportation;
- 8 (8) Improve public health;
- 9 (9) Reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses to meet
- 10 state renewable portfolio standards established in
- 11 section 269-92 and zero emissions clean economy by
- 12 2045 pursuant to section 225P-5;
- 13 (10) Reduce [~~urban~~] temperatures and provide for cooler
- 14 transit by incorporating green infrastructure [~~tree~~
- 15 ~~canopy and foliage over hardened surfaces,~~] pursuant
- 16 to section 264- ; and
- 17 (11) Beautify public infrastructure."

18 SECTION 4. (a) There is established the green

19 transportation infrastructure task force to be placed in the

20 department of transportation for administrative purposes. The

21 green transportation infrastructure task force shall examine,



1 evaluate, and develop best practices to guide the design,
2 implementation, and maintenance of green transportation
3 infrastructure pursuant to section 264- , Hawaii Revised
4 Statutes.

5 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 6 (1) One member appointed by the president of the senate
7 and one member appointed by the speaker of the house
8 of representatives, who shall serve as co-chairpersons
9 of the task force;
- 10 (2) One representative of the department of transportation
11 highways division;
- 12 (3) One representative from the department of land and
13 natural resources;
- 14 (4) One representative of the climate change mitigation
15 and adaptation commission;
- 16 (5) One representative from the office of planning and
17 sustainable development;
- 18 (6) One representative from the Hawaii tourism authority;
- 19 (7) One representative from the University of Hawaii
20 department of urban and regional planning; and
- 21 (8) A certified arborist from the University of Hawaii.



1 (c) The chairpersons of the task force shall invite
2 representatives to participate on the task force, and may invite
3 other relevant stakeholders that shall include but not be
4 limited to:

- 5 (1) Community groups with a focus on reducing urban
6 temperatures in public infrastructure;
7 (2) Organizations with a focus on reducing wastewater in
8 public infrastructure;
9 (3) Organizations with a focus on beautifying the State;
10 and
11 (4) Organizations with experience in painting and
12 finishing in public construction projects.

13 (d) The green transportation infrastructure task force
14 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
15 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions
17 of 2024 and 2025.

18 (e) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2024.

19 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Green Infrastructure; Transportation; Green Transportation
Infrastructure Task Force

Description:

Establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation systems, infrastructure, and projects.
Establishes the Green Transportation Infrastructure Task Force to examine, evaluate, and develop policies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure. (SD1)

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