
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 fostering vibrant,
2 sustainable, and livable communities can support the health,
3 well-being, and connectivity of all residents. Streets and
4 public spaces are invaluable resources that, when adapted for
5 multi-use purposes, can enhance community life by providing safe
6 and inclusive opportunities for recreation, active
7 transportation, and cultural engagement. In line with this
8 vision, Hawaii seeks to establish a summer streets program to
9 reimagine urban spaces, drawing inspiration from the successful
10 pilot program initiated in Malmo, Sweden in 2017.

11 The legislature further finds that Malmo's program
12 demonstrated the transformative power of temporarily repurposing
13 streets and public spaces into dynamic areas for pedestrian use,
14 cycling, and community-centered activities. This initiative not
15 only encouraged greater public participation and physical
16 activity, but also bolstered local businesses and improved
17 environmental outcomes. By creating similar spaces across



1 Hawaii, the State can build stronger connections between
2 residents, foster a sense of belonging, and promote healthier
3 lifestyles.

4 The State's unique geographic and cultural landscape offers
5 a compelling opportunity to adapt and expand upon the Malmo
6 model. Beyond transforming streets, this initiative will
7 emphasize the importance of creating accessible public spaces
8 that act as hubs for social interaction, cultural events, and
9 local markets. These spaces will serve as central gathering
10 points, enriching the lives of residents and supporting a
11 stronger sense of community identity.

12 The legislature believes that this program aligns with the
13 State's goal of reducing carbon emissions, encouraging
14 sustainable transportation, and promoting community health. By
15 prioritizing active lifestyles and providing equitable access to
16 public spaces, the summer streets program will address public
17 health challenges, such as physical inactivity, mental
18 well-being, and social isolation while supporting local
19 businesses and reducing environmental impact.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



1 (1) Require the counties, in collaboration with the
2 department of transportation, to establish a summer
3 streets pilot program that temporarily closes
4 vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian
5 and cyclist uses;

6 (2) Require each county to submit an initial proposal to
7 the director of transportation; and

8 (3) Appropriate funds.

9 SECTION 2. (a) Each county, in collaboration with the
10 department of transportation, shall establish a summer streets
11 pilot program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic and
12 repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events,
13 temporary installations, and other community-driven activities.

14 (b) In developing the summer streets pilot program, each
15 county shall identify and designate specific streets for
16 pedestrianization, prioritizing areas that will best benefit
17 from reduced vehicular traffic and that are central to local
18 commerce, cultural activities, and community engagement. The
19 summer streets pilot program shall support sustainable
20 transportation options, including the provision of bike lanes
21 and enhanced pedestrian pathways.



1 (c) Each county shall submit initial proposals for the
2 summer streets pilot program, including locations, schedule for
3 road closures, the types of activities and amenities to be
4 provided, and a breakdown of projected costs to the director of
5 transportation no later than December 31, 2025.

6 (d) The department of transportation and department of
7 health, in partnership with any appropriate agencies or
8 organizations, shall submit reports of how each pilot project
9 was received after a period of normalization in each case,
10 including any proposed recommendations, to the legislature no
11 later than thirty days prior to the convening of the regular
12 session of 2027.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
17 year 2026-2027 for the department of transportation to allocate
18 to each county for the summer streets pilot program required by
19 this Act.

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2027.



Report Title:

DOT; Counties; Summer Streets Pilot Program; Reports;
Appropriations

Description:

Requires each county, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation, to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities. Requires each county to submit an initial proposal to the Director of Transportation. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Repeals on 6/30/2027. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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