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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that steel plates placed  
2 in the roadway during construction or repairs can pose a threat  
3 to motorists and their vehicles. Steel plates can be hazardous  
4 to oncoming traffic because of raised edges. They can pose a  
5 dangerous obstacle for motorcyclists in the best weather and  
6 especially in wet weather.

7           The legislature also finds that the State lacks a uniform  
8 policy to warn motorists of the presence of steel plates in the  
9 roadway during construction or repairs. While the department of  
10 transportation in general adheres to the standards of the Manual  
11 on Uniform Traffic Devices, these standards do not address the  
12 use of steel plates. Instead, the department avoids using steel  
13 plates on roadways where the speed limit is thirty-five miles  
14 per hour or more because of the difficulty of braking on the  
15 steel surface.

16           The legislature further finds that the county of Maui has  
17 recently adopted a policy requiring the use of signs to warn  
18 motorists whenever steel plates are used. However, the county



1 of Hawaii has no policy requiring placement of warning signage,  
2 the county of Kauai believes that existing road construction  
3 signage is sufficient, and the city and county of Honolulu  
4 allows contractors to determine what signage is necessary.

5 The purpose of this Act is to enhance traffic safety  
6 statewide by applying uniform standards to construction or  
7 repair work performed on a public highway by the State, a county  
8 subdivision, or a private contractor, in the form of warning  
9 motorists with appropriate signage of the presence of steel  
10 plates in the roadway.

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

14 "§264- Use of steel plates in roadway during public  
15 highway construction or repair. (a) Whenever the State, a  
16 political subdivision thereof, or a private contractor  
17 performing construction work or repairs on a public highway  
18 places steel plates in the roadway to conceal holes or otherwise  
19 make the roadway passable to vehicular traffic, signs or other  
20 appropriate devices specifically warning of the presence of  
21 steel plates shall be posted to warn oncoming vehicles.



1        (b) The director of transportation shall adopt rules  
2 pursuant to chapter 91 establishing standards for the type and  
3 placement of signs or other appropriate devices required by  
4 subsection (a).

5        (c) Noncompliance with this section or with rules adopted  
6 hereunder shall be considered a violation and subject to the  
7 penalties imposed in section 706-640."

8        SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
9 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
10 begun, before its effective date.

11        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

12        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



**Report Title:**

Transportation; Highway Safety

**Description:**

Requires the State, counties, and contractors performing work on a public highway to post signs warning motorists of steel plates placed in the roadway. (SD1)

