
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAYS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Farrington highway
2 is not only the major roadway on Oahu's leeward coast, it is
3 also the sole access route that links the Waianae district to
4 Ewa and points east, including metropolitan Honolulu. Although
5 west Oahu has experienced exponential growth and development
6 over the last twenty years, transportation infrastructure has
7 not kept pace. Traffic volume on Farrington highway has
8 increased from an average of twenty thousand vehicles per day in
9 2000 to fifty thousand vehicles per day in 2016. Although
10 planned rail and other public transportation expansions, such as
11 more robust bus service, may alleviate some traffic congestion
12 once they are fully implemented, a solution that depends solely
13 on public transportation is both too far in the future and
14 inadequate.

15 The city and county of Honolulu's department of
16 transportation services published a concept study for a
17 secondary access highway for the leeward coast in 2001. To



1 date, no action has been taken to realize this project. The
2 residents of the Waianae district bear the largest burden of the
3 current infrastructural insufficiency since they must contend
4 with daily commutes of up to two hours each way for jobs or
5 school, both of which are concentrated on the island's opposite
6 eastern coast. In fact, during peak morning and afternoon
7 commute hours, the eight-mile segment of Farrington highway
8 between Makaha and Nanakuli cannot be traveled in less than
9 forty-five minutes. Additionally, the lack of any alternate
10 route leaves leeward residents more vulnerable to harm in an
11 emergency situation. There is currently no available route that
12 can be used as an alternative to Farrington highway during times
13 when Farrington highway is impassable. Coastal residents are at
14 the mercy of traffic conditions for travel both within and out
15 of the Waianae district and may be unable to reach emergency
16 services or to timely evacuate the area if the sole available
17 route both through and out of the district is impassable due to
18 storm damage, severe vehicular accidents, or even daily rush
19 hour.

20 The legislature further finds that any project to alleviate
21 traffic congestion on Oahu's west side must first avoid



1 exacerbating the problem through ongoing lane closures or other
2 disruptions caused by road construction. It is critical that
3 any project to supply alternate transportation corridors must
4 minimize or, ideally, altogether avoid creating additional
5 transportation barriers for residents of west Oahu.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
7 department of transportation for planning for construction of
8 secondary access roads that pass through Oahu's Waianae coast and
9 connect that area to the rest of the island's transportation
10 infrastructure.

11 SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall
12 develop plans for construction of secondary access roads to
13 serve as alternative routes to Farrington highway for travel
14 within, into, and out of the Waianae district of Oahu. Plans
15 shall include route maps, timelines for implementation, measures
16 to avoid or mitigate disruption of access to currently available
17 routes, and any other information the department deems
18 necessary.

19 (b) For purposes of this Act, "Waianae district" means the
20 leeward coast of Oahu from Nanakuli to Kaena point that is
21 enclosed by the leeward slopes of the Waianae mountain range.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
4 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
5 2018-2019 for the development of plans for construction of
6 secondary access roads on Oahu's leeward coast pursuant to this
7 Act.

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

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Roadways; Waianae District; Secondary Access Routes;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Transportation to develop plans for the construction of secondary access roads for the Waianae district of leeward Oahu. Appropriates funds. (HB1378 HD1)

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