
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATEWIDE TRAFFIC CODE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that large and high-
2 passenger vehicles pose an undue risk to public safety when
3 allowed in the fast lane of public highways. High-speed lane
4 changes are widely considered to be among the most dangerous
5 maneuvers, especially with regard to motorcyclists, whom the
6 drivers of large semi-trucks may find difficult to see. In
7 addition, efficiency suffers as trucks, trailers, and buses
8 cause congestion to the more nimble vehicles behind them.

9 The purpose of this Act is to prohibit large and high-
10 passenger vehicles from using the fast lane of public highways.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by adding a new section to part XII to be appropriately
13 designated and to read as follows:

14 "§291C- Driving in left-hand lane or along left curb or
15 edge; prohibitions. (a) Notwithstanding any contrary provision
16 in part XVII, no person driving a vehicle with more than four
17 wheels or a high-passenger car shall travel:



1 (1) In the extreme left-hand lane of a roadway if the
2 roadway is clearly marked for two or more lanes of
3 traffic moving in the same direction; or

4 (2) Closer to the left-hand curb or left-hand edge than
5 the right-hand curb or right-hand edge of a roadway if
6 the roadway is not clearly marked for two or more
7 lanes.

8 (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply when:

9 (1) Traveling a distance not to exceed one thousand feet
10 when preparing for a left turn at an intersection or
11 into a private road or driveway; or

12 (2) Directed by a police officer or any other person
13 authorized to direct, control, or regulate traffic.

14 (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), in
15 case of a conflict between this section and part XVII, this
16 section shall prevail.

17 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person who
18 operates a public transportation vehicle from traveling in a
19 lane that has been designated as a zipper lane or diamond lane
20 by the department of transportation."



1 SECTION 3. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
3 and to read as follows:

4 "High-passenger car" means a passenger car, as defined in
5 section 286-2, designed for carrying at least eleven
6 passengers."

7 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Statewide Traffic Code; Left-Lane; Zipper Lane; Diamond Lane

Description:

Prohibits drivers from operating vehicles with more than four wheels and high-passenger cars in the left lane, or close to the left-hand curb or left-hand edge, of a state or county roadway. Exempts drivers operating public transportation vehicles in a zipper lane or diamond lane. (HB2440 HD1)

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