
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AN UNDERWATER TUNNEL AND SUPPORTING ROADWAYS TO
PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN EWA AND DOWNTOWN
HONOLULU.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature find that the upcoming decades
2 will bring tens of thousands of new homes to the leeward coast
3 and nearby areas of west Oahu. Traffic experts predict that
4 vehicular congestion will double or triple as a result of the
5 growth in population. Completion of Honolulu's rail transit
6 project, potential implementation of toll roads, and other
7 traffic mitigation efforts, while helpful, will not be enough to
8 provide the additional transportation capacity for west Oahu
9 residents.

10 The legislature further finds that an underwater tunnel
11 constructed at an appropriate location will provide residents of
12 the leeward coast with a much more direct route to downtown
13 Honolulu, which will reduce travel time and save transportation
14 expenses.

15 The legislature believes that, if invited to participate in
16 the planning, the United States Navy will not oppose the



1 construction of an underwater tunnel because naval vessels
2 commonly traverse underwater tunnels on the east coast of the
3 United States and throughout the world.

4 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
5 transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of a
6 private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an
7 underwater tunnel for traffic to provide a more direct
8 connection between Ewa and downtown Honolulu along with the
9 expansion of roadways as necessary to maximize use of the
10 tunnel.

11 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall conduct
12 a study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to
13 design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for traffic to
14 provide a more direct connection between Ewa and downtown
15 Honolulu along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to
16 maximize use of the tunnel. The study shall include estimates
17 on the appropriate toll fees for use of the tunnel if a tunnel
18 is feasible. The study shall be submitted to the legislature no
19 later than twenty days prior to the regular session of 2022.

20 The department of transportation may contract with a
21 private entity to conduct the study.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for a
4 study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to
5 design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for traffic to
6 provide a more direct connection between Ewa and downtown
7 Honolulu along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to
8 maximize use of the tunnel.

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

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOT; Underwater Tunnel; Feasibility Study; Private-Public Partnership; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of a private-public partnership to design, build, and operate an underwater tunnel for vehicle traffic to provide a more direct connection between Ewa and downtown Honolulu along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to maximize use of the tunnel. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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