

JAN 22 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's policy
2 of providing highly subsidized parking for state employees
3 limits the employees' choices, does not reduce traffic
4 congestion or greenhouse gas emissions, and contradicts state
5 policies to encourage alternative modes of transportation.
6 According to the department of accounting and general services,
7 four thousand and seventy-six subsidized parking stalls are made
8 available to state employees on Oahu, not including stalls
9 located at the University of Hawai'i or the department of
10 education buildings. An additional two hundred forty-three are
11 made available on Hawai'i island, two hundred seventy-eight on
12 Maui, and one hundred fifty-one on Kaua'i.

13 The legislature further finds that for many years the State
14 has offered the limited option to employees to pay for monthly
15 parking privileges at the department of accounting and general
16 services controlled lot located at or near the employee's
17 workplace through pre-tax payroll deductions. In addition to



1 the savings for purchasing parking pre-tax, the parking
2 privileges are offered at a rate of approximately one-third of
3 the public rate. For example, employee parking rates in the
4 Honolulu downtown area range from twenty dollars to sixty
5 dollars per month prior to any pre-tax savings, which is a
6 fraction of the cost to park in a nearby private lot.

7 Comparatively, the cost of a monthly adult bus pass on Oahu
8 is seventy dollars and the State does not provide a comparable
9 bus pass benefit to its employees nor offer to all employees the
10 ability to purchase a bus pass on a pre-tax basis. State
11 employees who travel to work by bicycle, foot, wheelchair or
12 other mobility aid, or private car-sharing also do not receive
13 any transportation benefit or support even though their
14 commuting modes reduce the number of cars driven in the State
15 and parked in state lots.

16 The legislature also finds that other jurisdictions, such
17 as Washington, D.C., have enacted transportation benefits equity
18 laws and policies. Various options such as offering an
19 equivalent transportation benefit that employees could select to
20 apply to the cost of their preferred mode of transportation
21 could be implemented.



1 The purpose of this measure is to require the director of
2 human resources development, in consultation with the Hawai'i
3 climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, state
4 energy office, and department of accounting and general
5 services, to develop and implement a commuting choice benefit
6 program for all state employees regardless of mode of
7 transportation with the goal of reducing single occupant
8 vehicles.

9 SECTION 2. The director of human resources development, in
10 consultation with the Hawai'i climate change mitigation and
11 adaptation commission, state energy office, and department of
12 accounting and general services shall develop and implement a
13 comprehensive commuting choice benefit program for all state
14 employees regardless of mode of transportation. The program
15 shall include walking, rolling using a wheelchair or other
16 mobility aid, car sharing, biking, and using public
17 transportation, and shall encourage the use of healthy, safe,
18 economically sound, and environmentally sustainable commuting
19 modes and discourage the use of single-occupant vehicle
20 commuting.



S.B. NO. 524

1 SECTION 3. The director of human resources development
2 shall submit a report on the progress made toward implementing
3 the program to the legislature no later than forty days prior to
4 the convening of the regular session of 2022.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

Paul Rhoad



S.B. NO. 524

Report Title:

Department of Human Resources Development; Transportation; State Employees; Plan

Description:

Requires the director of human resources development, in consultation with the Hawai'i climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, state energy office, and department of accounting and general services to develop and implement a comprehensive commuting choice benefit program for all state employees regardless of mode of transportation.

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