
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AN ALTERNATE ROUTE SITE SELECTION SURVEY IN PUNA.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Puna is one of the
2 fastest growing areas in the State. It's anticipated that by
3 2035, the Puna district will grow by approximately forty-two
4 thousand eighty residents, nearly double the current population
5 in the district and representative of nearly forty per cent of
6 the total population change by 2035. In comparison, the
7 populations in the north and south Hilo districts are expected
8 to increase by ten per cent or less by 2035.

9 The legislature further finds that the Kau and Puna
10 districts have the highest percentage of the population
11 considered low-income and living below the poverty line. This
12 subset of the population typically relies on transit and
13 nonmotorized modes of transportation more than any other income
14 level.

15 Hilo is the primary employment center in the region, with
16 over forty per cent of jobs located within this area. As a
17 result, average traffic volumes near Hilo on Keeau-Pahoa Road



1 (Highway 130) peak at approximately twenty thousand two hundred
2 vehicles per day in each direction. Highway 130 provides the
3 sole access between Hawaii Belt road and communities on the
4 eastern tip of the island, such as Puna, Pahoa, and Kalapana.
5 Trips from Hilo to the southernmost portion of Puna would take
6 up to two hours as estimated by the travel demand forecasting
7 model.

8 The legislature also finds that Highway 130 is the primary
9 arterial and only access route into the southeastern portion of
10 the Puna area. The legislature further finds that because of
11 this limited road access, the residents of Puna experience
12 severe traffic congestion, which impacts the quality of life for
13 Puna residents and may also result in fatal delays of emergency
14 services.

15 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
16 transportation, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, to
17 conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the
18 most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below
19 Highway 130.

20 SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation, in
21 collaboration with the county of Hawaii, shall conduct site



1 surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the most suitable
2 location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130.

3 (b) Any lands on the island of Hawaii owned by the State,
4 excluding lands under the jurisdiction of the department of
5 Hawaiian home lands, or county of Hawaii may be considered in
6 determining where to conduct site surveys. Lands owned by
7 private parties may be considered and site surveys may be
8 conducted pursuant to agreements with landowners.

9 (c) The department of transportation, in collaboration
10 with the county of Hawaii, shall submit a report of its findings
11 and recommendations to the legislature no later than twenty days
12 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023. The
13 report shall include:

14 (1) A list of lands determined to be the most suitable
15 location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway
16 130, including information regarding ownership of each
17 parcel of land;

18 (2) A discussion of any accessibility issues regarding the
19 lands;

20 (3) Any proposed legislation; and



1 (4) Any other matters that the department and county
2 believe are relevant for consideration.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
6 the purposes of this Act.

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

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

10



Report Title:

Puna; Alternate Route Site Selection Survey; Department of Transportation; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the department of transportation, in collaboration with the county of Hawaii, to conduct site surveys on the island of Hawaii to identify the most suitable location for an alternate route in Puna below Highway 130. Excludes lands under the jurisdiction of the department of Hawaiian home lands from site surveys. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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