

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that transparency and
2 accountability are critical to ensuring public agencies are
3 effective, efficient, and successfully provide services in the
4 public interest. The legislature further finds that departments
5 of transportation throughout the country typically spend more
6 than any other state agency on public infrastructure. As a
7 result, most departments of transportation throughout the
8 country have mechanisms such as oversight commissions and
9 requirements for robust reporting to ensure public transparency
10 and accountability for the billions of dollars they spend. This
11 enables elected leaders and the public to evaluate and track
12 transportation projects and ensure they successfully achieve
13 state goals as quickly and efficiently as possible.

14 The legislature further finds that no commission currently
15 exists in Hawaii to provide meaningful transparency and
16 accountability regarding transportation efforts. There is also
17 no public means of evaluating proposed or ongoing projects to



1 determine if or how much they will help change outcomes. There
2 are few readily available metrics to track whether overall
3 progress is being made toward many state transportation goals.
4 In some cases, planned projects are projected to reverse
5 progress toward some state goals.

6 Hawaii has among the worst traffic fatality rates in the
7 country, including the worst senior citizen pedestrian fatality
8 rate. Hawaii also has among the worst traffic congestion in the
9 country, and among the highest cost of transportation, which
10 greatly increases the cost of living for residents.

11 Unfortunately, Hawaii has held these distinctions for some time
12 with little change.

13 The purpose of this Act is to help improve transportation
14 outcomes by enabling basic transparency and accountability for
15 transportation efforts by:

- 16 (1) Establishing a transportation improvement and
17 modernization commission to help ensure that the
18 department of transportation achieves state goals and
19 outcomes; and
- 20 (2) Improving reporting to provide better transparency for
21 elected leaders and the public.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 264, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§264- Transportation improvement and modernization
5 commission. (a) There is established a transportation
6 improvement and modernization commission in the department of
7 transportation for administrative purposes.

8 (b) The commission shall:

9 (1) Provide oversight and direction to help ensure the
10 department of transportation achieves progress toward
11 state goals in ground transportation and mobility;

12 (2) Establish metrics and benchmarks for achieving
13 progress toward state goals, and make recommendations
14 to the department of transportation and the
15 legislature;

16 (3) Establish criteria to score project proposals to help
17 identify how to meet state goals, and make
18 recommendations for how each project proposal can be
19 improved to better meet state goals when appropriate,
20 before project plans and designs are finalized;



1 (4) Update scores of proposed projects when their final
2 elements and design have been determined if those
3 proposals were changed throughout the process; and

4 (5) Submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
5 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature
6 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
7 each regular session.

8 (c) The department of transportation shall provide
9 information on proposed and ongoing ground transportation and
10 mobility projects to the commission for the commission to
11 fulfill its statutory obligations and to evaluate, score, and
12 track projects through completion. The department of
13 transportation shall make the same information publicly
14 available online when the commission deems appropriate,
15 including regular updates on proposed project summaries and
16 scores, as well as overall progress toward state goals.

17 (d) For the first year following the establishment of the
18 commission and every even-numbered year, the commission shall be
19 chaired by the chair of the committee with jurisdiction over
20 transportation in the senate. For the second year following the
21 establishment of the commission and every odd-numbered year, the



1 commission shall be chaired by the chair of the committee with
2 jurisdiction over transportation in the house of
3 representatives.

4 (e) In addition to the rotating chairs, the members of the
5 commission shall include:

6 (1) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
7 development or their designee;

8 (2) The director of health or their designee;

9 (3) A representative from the Hawaii climate change
10 mitigation and adaptation commission;

11 (4) The chief energy officer of the Hawaii state energy
12 office or their designee;

13 (5) The department of transportation safe routes to
14 schools program coordinator or their designee; and

15 (6) The president of the University of Hawaii system or
16 their designee.

17 (f) The chair of the commission shall invite a member from
18 each of the following organizations to join the commission for a
19 three-year term:

20 (1) An organization with a focus on senior citizens;

21 (2) An organization with a focus on bicycling;



S.B. NO. 2034

Report Title:

Department of Transportation; Ground Transportation;
Transportation Improvement and Modernization Commission

Description:

Establishes the Transportation Improvement and Modernization Commission to help ensure the Department of Transportation achieves states goals and outcomes while improving reporting to provide better transparency for elected leaders and the public.

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