
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) Amending the duties and membership of the state
17 highway safety council and renaming it the
18 transportation safety and modernization council to
19 help ensure that the department of transportation
20 achieves state goals and outcomes; and



(2) Improving reporting to provide better transparency to
elected leaders and the public.

SECTION 2. Section 286-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended to read as follows:

"§286-5 ~~[State-highway]~~ Transportation safety and
modernization council. (a) There is established the ~~[Hawaii-
highway]~~ transportation safety and modernization council. The
director of transportation shall serve as its chairperson. The
following or their designated representatives shall be members
of the council: the chief justice, the attorney general, the
director of health, the superintendent of education, the
~~[president]~~ chair of the University of Hawaii[7] at Manoa
department of urban and regional planning, the co-chairs of the
Hawaii climate change mitigation and adaptation commission, the
director of the office of planning and sustainable development,
the executive director of the State energy office, the chair of
the senate standing committee with jurisdiction over
transportation, the member of the senate with jurisdiction over
capital improvement projects, the chair of the house of
representatives standing committee with jurisdiction over
transportation, the member of the house of representatives with



1 jurisdiction over capital improvement projects, the chairperson
2 of each of the county highway safety councils established under
3 section 286-6, and not more than [~~twenty~~] ten other persons who
4 shall be appointed by the governor for a three-year term as
5 follows:

6 (1) One member from an organization representing senior
7 citizens;

8 (2) One member from an organization representing
9 bicyclists;

10 (3) One member from an organization with a focus on urban
11 planning;

12 (4) One member from an organization with a focus on
13 transportation, planning, and improvement;

14 (5) One member from an organization that serves low-income
15 communities;

16 (6) One member from an organization representing labor and
17 construction;

18 (7) One member from an organization representing trucking
19 and cargo carriers; and

20 (8) Up to three members on the basis of their interest in
21 [~~highway~~] transportation safety[~~-~~] and modernization.



1 The ~~[state highway]~~ transportation safety and modernization
2 council shall ~~[advise]~~ :

3 (1) Provide direction to help the department of
4 transportation achieve progress toward ground
5 transportation, safety, modernization, and other state
6 goals;

7 (2) Establish metrics and benchmarks, and regular
8 reporting to help the department of transportation
9 achieve state goals; and

10 (3) Advise the governor, legislature, and public on
11 matters relating to the programs ~~[and]~~, activities,
12 and of the State in the field of ~~[highway]~~
13 transportation safety~~[-]~~ and modernization.

14 (b) The department of transportation shall provide
15 information on ground transportation plans, projects, and any
16 other relevant information to the transportation safety and
17 modernization council.

18 (c) The members of the council shall serve without pay but
19 shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while
20 attending meetings and while in discharge of their duties."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Department of Transportation; Ground Transportation;
Transportation Safety and Modernization Council

Description:

Establishes the Transportation Safety and Modernization Council to help the Department of Transportation achieve state goals and outcomes while improving reporting to provide better information and transparency for elected leaders and the public. (SD1)

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