
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that transforming
2 Hawaii's surface transportation systems and infrastructure to
3 prioritize walking, rolling, bicycling, and public transit is at
4 the nexus of the State's commitments to public health, public
5 safety, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability.
6 The most important component of this transformation is ensuring
7 that every child in Hawaii enjoys the infrastructure, social
8 support, confidence, and skills to walk, roll, bike, or bus to
9 school.

10 The legislature further finds that ensuring safe routes to
11 school for every keiki will not only protect our most vulnerable
12 road users, but also serve as a long-term investment in the
13 future of transportation in the State. However, the legislature
14 recognizes that decades of automobile-centric planning and
15 development have created formidable barriers to this
16 transformation. These barriers include a lack of complete,
17 safe, and comfortable bike and pedestrian networks; burdensome



1 and complicated funding mechanisms for safe routes to school
2 programs and community engagement; a lack of a state safe routes
3 to school plan that creates performance measures, goals,
4 strategies, and accountability; and a lack of coordination of
5 safe routes to school promotion among state and county agencies
6 and community-based organizations.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

8 (1) Require the department of transportation's safe routes
9 to school program coordinator to develop a
10 comprehensive statewide safe routes to school plan to
11 advise the State on strategies to ensure that each
12 child in the State is able to safely bike, walk, roll,
13 or bus to that child's respective school; and

14 (2) Appropriate funds for the department of transportation
15 to hire additional staffing, including one full-time
16 equivalent (1.0 FTE).

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
19 designated and to read as follows:

20 "§291C- Safe routes to school; comprehensive statewide
21 plan. (a) The safe routes to school program coordinator shall



1 develop a comprehensive statewide safe routes to school plan
2 that shall include:

3 (1) Methods to stabilize the safe routes special fund
4 distribution mechanism;

5 (2) Recommendations to streamline safe routes to school
6 program funding to facilitate schools and communities'
7 efforts to apply for, and receive, moneys;

8 (3) Performance measures, goals, strategies, and
9 accountability for improving safety, active mode
10 share, community investment in supportive programming,
11 and infrastructure quality;

12 (4) Identification of, and recommendations for, funding
13 mechanisms, planning processes, and programming that
14 are inclusive and equitable; and

15 (5) Recommendations to prioritize safe routes to school
16 programming to serve students attending:

17 (A) Schools that receive federal funds pursuant to
18 title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary
19 Education Act, as amended by the Every Student
20 Succeeds Act;

21 (B) Middle schools; and



1 (C) High schools.

2 (b) The safe routes to school program coordinator shall:

3 (1) Make the comprehensive statewide safe routes to school
4 plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) available to
5 the public no later than November 1, 2026; and

6 (2) Submit a copy of the comprehensive statewide safe
7 routes to school plan developed pursuant to this
8 section, including any proposed legislation, to the
9 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
10 convening of the regular session of 2027.

11 (c) The safe routes to school program coordinator may
12 consult with relevant stakeholders to effectuate the purposes of
13 this section."

14 SECTION 3. Section 291C-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

16 "(b) There is created, within the department of
17 transportation, the position of safe routes to school program
18 coordinator. The safe routes to school program coordinator
19 shall provide a central point of contact for the [~~federal~~] safe
20 routes to school program."



1 SECTION 4. 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 2023-2024 and
4 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
5 year 2024-2025 for the department of transportation to hire
6 additional staffing, including one full-time equivalent (1.0
7 FTE) safe routes to school program coordinator position.

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

10 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DOT; Safe Routes to School; Safe Routes to School Program
Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to
School Program Coordinator to develop a comprehensive statewide
Safe Routes to School Plan. Clarifies the Safe Routes to School
Program Coordinator as the central point of contact for all Safe
Routes to School programs. Appropriates funds. Effective
7/1/3000. (SD1)

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