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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GREEN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that sustainable design  
2 concepts for public infrastructure incorporate green vegetation  
3 and trees to decrease urban temperatures, reduce carbon  
4 emissions, improve air quality, and capture water to replenish  
5 the water table. The effects of climate change have made the  
6 implementation of sustainable design concepts more critical, as  
7 each passing year has seen increased temperatures and other  
8 impacts from climate change.

9           The legislature also finds that studies have determined  
10 that people who live in areas that have more trees and green  
11 space are less likely to develop acute respiratory symptoms and  
12 die of heart disease or respiratory disease. Studies have also  
13 found that green vegetation, trees, and properly designed and  
14 well-maintained infrastructure can also produce significant  
15 improvements to mental health and have positive psychological  
16 and quality of life benefits in a community. For example, the  
17 Walt Disney Company uses these principles in park design,



1 including painting of infrastructure such as trash cans and  
2 streetlights in a standard shade of neutral green to blend into  
3 the surrounding environment to improve the quality of the  
4 experience for visitors. Similar practices can be done in local  
5 communities to produce mental health and quality of life  
6 benefits.

7 The legislature further finds that Hawaii is world-renowned  
8 for its lush vegetation, and citizens and tourists actively seek  
9 out green spaces. Increasing the number of parks and green  
10 spaces in the State will increase the quality of life of  
11 residents and visitors.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the  
13 quality of life in the State by establishing:

- 14 (1) Objectives and policies for transportation systems,  
15 infrastructure, and projects to incorporate green  
16 infrastructure; and
- 17 (2) A green transportation infrastructure task force to  
18 examine, evaluate, and develop best practices for the  
19 department of transportation to further guide, design,  
20 implement, and maintain green transportation  
21 infrastructure in transportation systems and projects.



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

4 "§264- Green transportation infrastructure. (a)  
5 Planning for transportation systems, infrastructure, and  
6 projects shall incorporate green infrastructure to achieve the  
7 following climate and sustainability design objectives:

8 (1) Minimizing stormwater runoff and replenishment of the  
9 water table;

10 (2) Reducing the urban heat island effect by providing  
11 shade that reduces heat absorption over hardened  
12 surfaces;

13 (3) Providing cooler shaded transit for pedestrians,  
14 bicycle users, and micro-mobility users; and

15 (4) Encouraging the removal, sequestration, and storage of  
16 pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

17 (b) Planning for transportation systems, infrastructure,  
18 and projects shall utilize green infrastructure to achieve life  
19 design objectives, including:

20 (1) Creating a visual and sound barrier between vehicles  
21 and other modes of pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-



- 1           modal transit to enhance the quality of  
2           transportation;
- 3       (2) Creating a visual and sound barrier between vehicles  
4           and surrounding communities to enhance quality of  
5           life;
- 6       (3) Incorporating live foliage, trees, and green  
7           infrastructure to the greatest extent possible to  
8           blend transportation infrastructure into the State's  
9           natural environment and reflect a state sense of  
10          place;
- 11       (4) Finishing non-travel exterior exposed appurtenances  
12           and hardened surfaces not covered in foliage or green  
13           infrastructure with a standardized paint scheme to  
14           protect against weathering, blend appropriately with  
15           the State's natural environment, and enhance a state  
16           sense of place; and
- 17       (5) Requiring the department of transportation and its  
18           contractors to adopt uniform best practices when  
19           planting, caring for, and maintaining trees and green  
20           infrastructure by following ANSI A300 or similar best



1 practice standards appropriate for Hawaii for tree  
2 care practices."

3 SECTION 3. Section 264-141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "[~~f~~]**\$264-141**[~~t~~] **Definitions.** As used in this part[~~r~~  
6 "department"]:

7 "Department" means the department of transportation.

8 "Green infrastructure" means the range of measures that use  
9 plant, tree, or soil systems with an expected life span of at  
10 least twenty years designed to reduce carbon footprints, enhance  
11 shade, reduce temperatures, reduce stormwater flow to sewer  
12 systems or surface waters, and meet the State's climate and  
13 sustainability goals."

14 SECTION 4. Section 264-143, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16 "(a) When planning, designing, and implementing ground  
17 transportation infrastructure for each project pursuant to this  
18 part, the department shall endeavor to:

- 19 (1) Assess and maximize total throughput of people across  
20 all modes of transportation;



- 1 (2) Achieve any goals described in the complete streets  
2 policy adopted pursuant to section 264-20.5;
- 3 (3) Reduce vehicle miles traveled;
- 4 (4) Decrease the percentage of single occupancy vehicles  
5 in the State's mode share;
- 6 (5) Provide equity for all communities and users;
- 7 (6) Improve safety and achieve any goals described in the  
8 vision zero policy adopted pursuant to section 286-  
9 7.5;
- 10 (7) Reduce user cost of transportation;
- 11 (8) Improve public health;
- 12 (9) Reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gasses to meet  
13 state renewable portfolio standards established in  
14 section 269-92 and zero emissions clean economy by  
15 2045 pursuant to section 225P-5;
- 16 (10) Reduce [~~urban~~] temperatures and provide for cooler  
17 transit by incorporating green infrastructure [~~tree~~  
18 ~~canopy and foliage over hardened surfaces;~~] pursuant  
19 to section 264- ; and
- 20 (11) Beautify public infrastructure."



1 SECTION 5. (a) There is established the green  
2 transportation infrastructure task force to be placed in the  
3 department of transportation for administrative purposes. The  
4 green transportation infrastructure task force shall examine,  
5 evaluate, and develop best practices to guide the design,  
6 implementation, and maintenance of green transportation  
7 infrastructure pursuant to section 264- , Hawaii Revised  
8 Statutes.

9 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

- 10 (1) One member appointed by the president of the senate  
11 and one member appointed by the speaker of the house  
12 of representatives, who shall serve as co-chairpersons  
13 of the task force;
- 14 (2) One representative of the department of transportation  
15 highways division;
- 16 (3) One representative from the department of land and  
17 natural resources;
- 18 (4) One representative of the climate change mitigation  
19 and adaptation commission;
- 20 (5) One representative from the office of planning and  
21 sustainable development;



- 1 (6) One representative from the Hawaii tourism authority;
- 2 (7) One representative from the University of Hawaii
- 3 department of urban and regional planning;
- 4 (8) A certified arborist from the University of Hawaii;
- 5 and
- 6 (9) One representative from the office of Hawaiian
- 7 affairs.

8 (c) The co-chairpersons of the task force shall invite  
9 representatives to participate on the task force, and may invite  
10 other relevant stakeholders that shall include but not be  
11 limited to:

- 12 (1) Community groups with a focus on reducing urban
- 13 temperatures in public infrastructure;
- 14 (2) Organizations with a focus on reducing wastewater in
- 15 public infrastructure;
- 16 (3) Organizations with a focus on beautifying the State;
- 17 and
- 18 (4) Organizations with experience in painting and
- 19 finishing in public construction projects.

20 (d) The green transportation infrastructure task force  
21 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations,





1 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions  
3 of 2024 and 2025.

4 (e) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2025.

5 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

8



**Report Title:**

Green Infrastructure; Transportation; Green Transportation  
Infrastructure Task Force

**Description:**

Establishes green infrastructure objectives and policies for transportation systems, infrastructure, and projects.  
Establishes the green transportation infrastructure task force to examine, evaluate, and develop policies for the design, implementation, and maintenance of green transportation infrastructure. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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