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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY EVACUATION ROUTES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Waianae coast,  
2       which encompasses communities from Makaha to Kahe Point, relies  
3       predominately on Farrington highway as the area's sole access  
4       route. This dependency on a single route poses significant  
5       risks during natural disasters or accidents, when the ability to  
6       evacuate quickly is critical. Recent studies and community  
7       feedback have highlighted the inadequacy of the area's emergency  
8       access roads, which fail to meet safety and capacity standards.  
9       Notably, while a new emergency access road is scheduled to open  
10      in Spring 2025, concerns remain regarding the road's capacity to  
11      handle the traffic that would be involved in a large-scale  
12      evacuation.

13      Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require and  
14      appropriate moneys for the department of transportation, in  
15      collaboration with the city and county of Honolulu, to assess  
16      and develop an improvement plan for emergency evacuation routes  
17      along the Waianae coast.



1       SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation, in  
2 collaboration with the city and county of Honolulu, shall:

3       (1) Conduct a comprehensive assessment of existing  
4 emergency access roads along the Waianae coast to  
5 determine the state of the roads and to identify any  
6 concerns regarding the roads' safety, capacity, or  
7 accessibility;

8       (2) Develop a detailed plan to upgrade existing emergency  
9 access roads, or to construct new evacuation routes  
10 that meet established standards for road safety and  
11 capacity, to enable residents from Makaha to Kahe  
12 Point to evacuate quickly and safely;

13       (3) Evaluate the feasibility of restoring and utilizing  
14 unpaved roads, including the roads leading from  
15 Waianae to Wailua via Peacock Flats and roads in the  
16 Waianae Valley that were previously used by the United  
17 States military; and

18       (4) Engage with local residents to gather input and  
19 address concerns related to the proposed evacuation  
20 routes.



1 (b) For purposes of the assessment and plan required by  
2 subsection (a), the department of transportation may request  
3 input and assistance from the United States Navy.

4 (c) The department shall submit a report of its findings  
5 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
6 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
7 the regular session of 2026.

8 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
11 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
12 2026-2027 to assess and develop an improvement plan for  
13 emergency evacuation routes along the Waianae coast.

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

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 21 2025



# H.B. NO. 823

**Report Title:**

DOT; USN; City and County of Honolulu; Emergency Evacuation;  
Waianae; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires and appropriates moneys for the Department of Transportation, in collaboration with the City and County of Honolulu, to assess and develop an improvement plan for emergency evacuation routes along the Waianae coast. Authorizes the Department to request input and assistance from the United States Navy. Requires a report to the Legislature.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

