
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 fostering vibrant,
2 sustainable, and livable communities can support the health,
3 well-being, and connectivity of all residents. Streets and
4 public spaces are invaluable resources that, when adapted for
5 multi-use purposes, can enhance community life by providing safe
6 and inclusive opportunities for recreation, active
7 transportation, and cultural engagement. In line with this
8 vision, Hawaii seeks to establish a summer streets program to
9 reimagine urban spaces, drawing inspiration from the successful
10 pilot program initiated in Malmo, Sweden in 2017.

11 The legislature further finds that Malmo's program
12 demonstrated the transformative power of temporarily repurposing
13 streets and public spaces into dynamic areas for pedestrian use,
14 cycling, and community-centered activities. This initiative not
15 only encouraged greater public participation and physical
16 activity, but also bolstered local businesses and improved
17 environmental outcomes. By creating similar spaces across



1 Hawaii, the State can build stronger connections between
2 residents, foster a sense of belonging, and promote healthier
3 lifestyles.

4 Hawaii's unique geographic and cultural landscape offers a
5 compelling opportunity to adapt and expand upon the Malmo model.
6 Beyond transforming streets, this initiative will emphasize the
7 importance of creating accessible public spaces that act as hubs
8 for social interaction, cultural events, and local markets.
9 These spaces will serve as central gathering points, enriching
10 the lives of residents and supporting a stronger sense of
11 community identity.

12 The legislature believes that this program aligns with the
13 State's goal of reducing carbon emissions, encouraging
14 sustainable transportation, and promoting community health. By
15 prioritizing active lifestyles and providing equitable access to
16 public spaces, the summer streets program will address public
17 health challenges, such as physical inactivity, mental well-
18 being, and social isolation while supporting local businesses
19 and reducing environmental impact.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



(1) Require each county, in collaboration with the department of transportation, to establish a summer streets pilot program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist uses; and

(2) Require each county to submit an initial proposal to the director of transportation.

SECTION 2. (a) Each county, in collaboration with the department of transportation, shall establish a summer streets pilot program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, temporary installations, and other community-driven activities.

(b) In developing the summer streets pilot program, each county shall identify and designate specific streets for pedestrianization, prioritizing areas that will best benefit from reduced vehicular traffic, and that are central to local commerce, cultural activities, and community engagement. The summer streets pilot program shall support sustainable transportation options, including the provision of bike lanes and enhanced pedestrian pathways.



1 (c) Each county shall submit initial proposals for the
2 summer streets pilot program, including locations, schedule for
3 road closures, types of activities and amenities to be provided,
4 and a breakdown of projected costs to the director of
5 transportation no later than December 31, 2025.

6 (d) The department of transportation shall submit a report
7 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
8 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
9 to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
13 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
14 year 2026-2027 for the department of transportation to allocate
15 to each county for the summer streets pilot program required by
16 this Act.

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

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1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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Report Title:

DOT; Counties; Summer Streets Pilot Program; Appropriations

Description:

Requires each county, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities. Requires each county to submit an initial proposal to the Director of Transportation. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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