
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP ON LOWERING THE LEGAL LIMIT OF BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION TO 0.05 GRAMS OF ALCOHOL PER ONE HUNDRED MILLILITERS OF BLOOD WITH THE INTENT OF PRIORITIZING SAFETY AND SAVING LIVES ON HAWAII'S ROADS.

1 WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety
2 Commission, about thirty-seven people in the United States die
3 in drunk-driving crashes every day; and

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5 WHEREAS, that number equates to one person dying every
6 thirty-nine minutes; and

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8 WHEREAS, in 2022, 13,524 people died in alcohol-impaired
9 driving traffic deaths across the United States; and

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11 WHEREAS, from 2011 to 2022, at least forty percent of
12 traffic fatalities in Hawaii involved alcohol; and

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14 WHEREAS, research published in the Journal of Studies on
15 Alcohol and Drugs in 2012 shows that if a person's blood alcohol
16 concentration (BAC) is between 0.05 and 0.08 percent, their
17 chances of being killed in a crash where only the person's
18 vehicle is involved are at least seven times higher than if the
19 person had not been drinking at all; and

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21 WHEREAS, reducing the legal BAC limit to 0.05 percent would
22 likely lead to fewer instances of impaired driving and its
23 consequences; and

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25 WHEREAS, a 0.05 percent BAC limit would serve as a general
26 deterrent to impaired driving and affects all would-be drinking
27 drivers; and

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29 WHEREAS, more than one hundred countries have reduced their
30 legal BAC levels to 0.05 percent or lower, including Australia,
31 Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Spain; now, therefore,



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2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
3 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
4 that the Department of Transportation is urged to establish a
5 working group on lowering the legal limit of blood alcohol
6 concentration to 0.05 grams of alcohol per one hundred
7 milliliters of blood with the intent of prioritizing safety and
8 saving lives on Hawaii's roads; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
11 to consist of the following members:
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- 13 (1) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
14 designee;
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- 16 (2) A Representative from the Office of the Public
17 Defender;
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- 19 (3) A representative from the Office of the Prosecuting
20 Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu;
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- 22 (4) A representative from the Office of the Prosecuting
23 Attorney of Kauai;
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- 25 (5) A representative from the Office of the Prosecuting
26 Attorney of Hawaii; and
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- 28 (6) A representative from the Department of the
29 Prosecuting Attorney of Maui; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
32 to invite the following individuals to participate as members of
33 the working group:
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- 35 (1) A representative from the National Transportation
36 Safety Board;
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- 38 (2) A representative from the Hawaii Alcohol Policy
39 Alliance;
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- 41 (3) A representative from the field of traffic safety and
42 research with expertise in alcohol-impaired driving;



(4) A representative of Hawaii establishments selling alcohol;

(5) A representative of Hawaii restaurants;

(6) A representative from an organization doing work on reducing alcohol-related fatalities; and

(7) Any other members as deemed appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to examine data to identify:

(1) The number of alcohol-related fatalities and injuries per year in Hawaii;

(2) The number of expected fatalities and injuries per year involving drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of .05 grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood, based on real world results in other places;

(3) How alcohol and food revenues are affected in other jurisdictions that require drivers to have a blood alcohol concentration of .05 grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood;

(4) How much revenue could be expected to be gained or lost by decreasing the legal blood alcohol concentration to .05 grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood in Hawaii;

(5) Mitigating steps to help bars and restaurants adapt to any potential loss of revenue or options that might be recommended to address any loss; and

(6) Any recommendations to increase public awareness and phase-in legislation to decrease the legal blood alcohol concentration for driving to .05 grams of alcohol per one hundred milliliters of blood; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and
3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later
4 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
5 of 2026; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the National
9 Transportation Safety Board, Governor, Director of
10 Transportation, Public Defender, and Prosecuting Attorneys of
11 each county.

