
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that residents and
2 visitors frequently travel between East Hawaii island and West
3 Hawaii island, particularly the areas of Hilo and Kona, for
4 employment, education, medical services, commerce, and tourism.
5 However, the limited availability of efficient, reliable, and
6 affordable transportation options presents challenges to
7 economic development, community connectivity, and access to
8 essential services.

9 The legislature further finds that a dedicated evaluation
10 of potential transportation routes, including demand response
11 transit, route expansions, and multimodal corridor improvements
12 would help provide long-term transportation solutions for the
13 island of Hawaii.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
15 pilot program within the department of business, economic
16 development, and tourism to study and implement transportation
17 options that link the areas of Hilo and Kona.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a Hilo-Kona
2 transportation pilot program within the department of business,
3 economic development, and tourism to study, plan, evaluate,
4 implement, and trial transportation routes and services
5 connecting Hilo and Kona.

6 (b) The department of business, economic development, and
7 tourism shall consider a range of mobility and route options,
8 including direct routes, express routes, public-private
9 partnerships, shuttle systems, micro transit, and multimodal
10 corridor improvements.

11 (c) The department of business, economic development, and
12 tourism may consult and collaborate with federal agencies, all
13 departments of the State and its political subdivisions that
14 offer transportation related services, community organizations,
15 planners, and other stakeholders.

16 (d) The department of business, economic development, and
17 tourism shall submit a report of its findings and
18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
19 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
20 the regular session of 2028.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026, and
2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.

3

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 26 2026



H.B. NO. 2138

Report Title:

DBEDT; Hilo-Kona Transportation Pilot Program

Description:

Establishes a Hilo-Kona transportation pilot program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to study, plan, evaluate, implement, and trial transportation routes and services connecting Hilo and Kona.

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