

JAN 22 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PEDESTRIANS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's current
2 statutes relating to pedestrian infractions impose fines that
3 are often excessive and inequitable, particularly when compared
4 to the relative risk and harm posed by different types of
5 traffic violations. For example, fines for pedestrian
6 infractions, such as crossing outside of a marked crosswalk or
7 entering a crosswalk during a flashing "Don't Walk" signal, can
8 exceed or approach the penalties for certain moving vehicle
9 violations, including lower-level speeding infractions, which
10 carry far greater risk to public safety.

11 The legislature further finds that these fines fall most
12 heavily on individuals who are already economically vulnerable.
13 Research shows that monetary sanctions for low-level offenses,
14 including pedestrian violations, disproportionately burden
15 low-income residents, many of whom rely on walking and public
16 transportation as their primary means of mobility. Studies have
17 shown that excessive fines and fees often perpetuate cycles of



1 debt, push residents into financial instability, and criminalize
2 poverty without improving safety outcomes. In Hawai‘i, where the
3 cost of living is among the highest in the nation, such fines
4 can have particularly harsh impacts on those least able to pay.

5 The legislature also recognizes that over-penalizing
6 pedestrians runs counter to the State's broader transportation
7 and climate goals, which prioritize walking, biking, and transit
8 as safe, affordable, and sustainable modes of travel.
9 Penalizing walking with disproportionately high fines
10 discourages these healthy and environmentally beneficial
11 behaviors.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to promote fairness
13 in the State's traffic laws by ensuring that fines for
14 pedestrian infractions are reasonable, proportionate, and not
15 unduly punitive.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 "**§291C- Limitations on Pedestrian Fines.** (a)
20 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the total monetary fine



1 imposed upon a pedestrian for any violation under this chapter
2 shall not exceed \$25 per violation.

3 (b) The judiciary, the department of transportation, and
4 the counties shall revise applicable schedules of fines, rules,
5 and procedures to ensure compliance with this section."

6 SECTION 3. Section 291C-73, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

8 " (e) Every [person] pedestrian who violates this section
9 shall be fined [\$100.] not more than \$25."

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

13

INTRODUCED BY: Karl Rhaels



S.B. NO. 2445

Report Title:

Pedestrian; Violations; Fines; Limitation

Description:

Establishes that fines for pedestrian violations under chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall not exceed \$25. Requires state and county agencies to revise applicable schedules of fines, rules, and procedures to comply with the monetary limit.

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