

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public-facing  
2 request mechanisms, including web-based forms that invite  
3 requests for speed humps or similar devices, should not operate  
4 as a substitute for traffic engineering study and documented  
5 criteria, and should not result in installations or speed limit  
6 changes that bypass the engineering basis required for prudent  
7 expenditure of scarce public funds.

8       The legislature further finds that traffic control devices  
9 installed on streets and highways open to public travel are  
10 governed by nationally recognized standards, including the  
11 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and that the State's  
12 public resources for transportation are increasingly  
13 constrained, making it imperative that safety expenditures be  
14 guided by objective, documented engineering analysis and made  
15 transparent through public access to the underlying studies and  
16 public input.

17       The purpose of this Act is to:



(1) Require traffic engineering studies prior to specified traffic safety device installations and speed limit changes;

(2) Provide a statewide dashboard for public transparency; and

(3) Require advance annual reporting to the legislature.

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

**"§291C- Mandatory traffic engineering studies; covered traffic safety actions.** (a) The department of transportation shall:

(1) Complete a traffic engineering study before implementing any covered traffic safety action;

(2) Only implement a covered traffic safety action when:

(A) The traffic engineering study is completed;

(B) The traffic engineering study is posted to the dashboard in accordance with subsection (e);

(C) The department of transportation has provided notice and an opportunity for public comment



1                   under subsection (c), unless subsection (b)(4)  
2                   applies; and

3           (D)   The department of transportation has issued and  
4                   posted a written determination under  
5                   subsection (d); and

6       (3)   As soon as practicable, remove or reverse the covered  
7                   traffic safety action and restore the site to a safe  
8                   condition consistent with applicable standards for any  
9                   covered traffic safety action first implemented on or  
10                  after July 1, 2026, if the department of  
11                  transportation implements the action in violation of  
12                  paragraph (2); provided that nothing in this paragraph  
13                  shall be construed to require removal of a covered  
14                  traffic safety action first implemented before July 1,  
15                  2026, which shall be governed by subsection (g).

16       (b)   A traffic engineering study under this section shall:

17       (1)   At a minimum, document:

18           (A)   The location, route, roadway classification, and  
19                   purpose of the request or proposed action;



- 1            (B) Speed data, traffic volumes, and collision  
2            history for an appropriate study period, to the  
3            extent available;
- 4            (C) Pedestrian, bicyclist, transit, and school-route  
5            context as applicable;
- 6            (D) Sight distance, grades, drainage, pavement  
7            condition, and geometric constraints relevant to  
8            safety;
- 9            (E) Emergency response and service impacts, including  
10           consultation with appropriate emergency response  
11           agencies when the action includes vertical  
12           deflection devices;
- 13           (F) Reasonable alternatives considered and the basis  
14           for selection or rejection;
- 15           (G) Estimated installation, operation, and  
16           maintenance costs and the intended funding  
17           source; and
- 18           (H) The final recommendation and engineering basis  
19           for the final written determination;
- 20           (2) Be posted to the dashboard no later than ten business  
21           days after completion; and



1        (3) Include underlying datasets or a summary of datasets  
2        sufficient for public understanding, subject to  
3        privacy, security, and critical infrastructure  
4        considerations as determined by the director of  
5        transportation by rule.

6        (c) Except as provided in subsection (b), the department  
7        of transportation shall provide at least thirty days public  
8        notice and an opportunity for written public comment before  
9        issuing a written determination under subsection (d). The  
10       public notice shall include, at minimum, the location, the  
11       requested or proposed covered traffic safety action, and a link  
12       to the dashboard entry for the request or proposal and  
13       supporting study materials.

14       (d) Following completion of the traffic engineering study  
15       and consideration of public comments, the department of  
16       transportation shall issue a written determination approving,  
17       denying, or deferring the covered traffic safety action. The  
18       determination shall briefly state the reasons for the decision,  
19       including a summary response to material public comments, and  
20       shall be posted to the dashboard no later than three business  
21       days after issuance.



1        (e) The department of transportation shall:

2        (1) Establish, host, and maintain a publicly accessible  
3        dashboard that provides, for each request for a  
4        covered traffic safety action received by the  
5        department and for each covered traffic safety action  
6        proposed by the department:

7        (A) The request or proposal date and source type  
8        without posting personal identifying information;

9        (B) The location sufficient for public understanding,  
10       including route and cross-streets or segment  
11       limits;

12       (C) The status of the request or proposal;

13       (D) The traffic engineering study and supporting  
14       datasets or summaries, as appropriate;

15       (E) Public notice materials and a summary of public  
16       comments received;

17       (F) The final written determination and  
18       implementation date, if approved; and

19       (G) If denied or deferred, the basis for denial or  
20       deferral and any conditions for future  
21       reconsideration;



(2) Post a new request or proposal entry to the dashboard no later than five business days after receipt or initiation; and

(3) Maintain historical entries for not less than five years after final determination or implementation.

The director of transportation may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to standardize submissions, protect privacy, and ensure timely posting while maximizing public transparency.

(f) The department of transportation shall not establish, maintain, or use any public-facing web form or other request mechanism that states or implies that submission will result in installation of a speed hump or other covered traffic safety action.

Any public-facing web form or other request mechanism maintained by the department shall:

(1) Be limited to requesting that the department of transportation evaluate a location through the traffic engineering study process required by this section;

(2) Prominently state that a submission is a request for study only and does not guarantee approval, installation, or a speed limit change; and



1        (3) Provide a direct link to the dashboard entry for the  
2        request after posting pursuant to subsection (e).

3        A covered traffic safety action shall not be deemed  
4        authorized, expedited, or prioritized solely because it is  
5        associated with a web form submission, petition, or constituent  
6        request.

7        (g) The department of transportation shall:

8        (1) Create and post on the dashboard an inventory of  
9        covered traffic safety actions first implemented by  
10       the department of transportation on or after  
11       January 1, 2019, to the extent records are available,  
12       and shall identify whether a traffic engineering study  
13       supporting each action exists and is posted;

14       (2) Complete and post a traffic engineering study and  
15       issue and post a written determination reaffirming,  
16       modifying, or reversing the covered traffic safety  
17       action for any covered traffic safety action first  
18       implemented before July 1, 2026, for which no traffic  
19       engineering study exists or can be produced and  
20       posted;





1        (3) Complete the traffic engineering study and issue the  
2        written determination required by paragraph (2) no  
3        later than July 1, 2031;

4        (4) Post to the dashboard, for each covered traffic safety  
5        action, a schedule for study completion and  
6        determination, and update that schedule at least  
7        annually;

8        (5) Remove or reverse the covered traffic safety action  
9        and restore the site to a safe condition consistent  
10       with applicable standards as soon as practicable after  
11       the deadline if the department fails to complete and  
12       post the traffic engineering study and written  
13       determination for a covered traffic safety action by  
14       the deadline in paragraph (3); provided that the  
15       department of transportation may retain the action if,  
16       prior to the deadline, the department posts a  
17       completed traffic engineering study and a written  
18       determination reaffirming or modifying the covered  
19       traffic safety action; and

20       (6) Remove or reverse the covered traffic safety action,  
21       or modify the covered traffic safety action to a



1 validated alternative, in accordance with the  
2 determination and within the timeframe stated in the  
3 determination, which shall not exceed one year unless  
4 extended for good cause stated on the dashboard if the  
5 department of transportation completes a traffic  
6 engineering study and issues a written determination  
7 that does not validate the continued use, placement,  
8 or configuration of a covered traffic safety action at  
9 a location.

10 (h) Any person may submit a petition through the dashboard  
11 requesting that the department of transportation identify and  
12 post the traffic engineering study and written determination for  
13 an existing covered traffic safety action. The department of  
14 transportation shall respond on the dashboard no later than  
15 thirty days after receipt by either:

16 (1) Linking to the posted study and determination;

17 (2) Posting a schedule for completion and posting of the  
18 study and determination consistent with subsection  
19 (g); or

20 (3) Posting a schedule for removal, reversal, or  
21 modification consistent with subsection (g).



1        (i) The department of transportation shall not expend  
2 state funds for the installation or implementation of a covered  
3 traffic safety action unless the requirements of  
4 subsection (a) (2) have been satisfied, except for emergency  
5 actions under subsection (k); provided that any emergency action  
6 expenditures shall be posted to the dashboard with the emergency  
7 basis and the timeline for compliance required by  
8 subsection (k).

9        (j) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
10 each regular session, the director of transportation shall  
11 submit a report to the legislature identifying, for the prior  
12 calendar year and year-to-date period specified by the director:

13        (1) All covered traffic safety actions implemented by the  
14 department;

15        (2) A link to the dashboard entry, the traffic engineering  
16 study, and the written determination for each covered  
17 traffic safety action;

18        (3) A summary of public comments received and how they  
19 were addressed;

20        (4) Actions subject to subsection (g), including the  
21 number of covered traffic safety actions lacking



1 posted studies, the department of transportation's  
2 progress toward the five-year deadline, and any  
3 removals or modifications made due to failure to  
4 validate; and

5 (5) Any recommended statutory changes to improve traffic  
6 safety governance, transparency, and cost  
7 effectiveness.

8 (k) This section shall not prohibit temporary traffic  
9 control for construction or maintenance work zones, immediate  
10 post-crash hazard response, or time-limited emergency actions  
11 necessary to address an imminent threat to life or property;  
12 provided that any emergency covered traffic safety action:

13 (1) Lasting more than thirty days shall be supported by a  
14 traffic engineering study completed and posted within  
15 that thirty-day period; and

16 (2) Involving vertical deflection shall include  
17 consultation with appropriate emergency response  
18 agencies within seven days after installation and  
19 shall be removed or modified promptly if emergency  
20 response impacts cannot be acceptably mitigated.

21 (1) For the purposes of this section:



1       "Covered traffic safety action" means, on any state highway  
2 or other public roadway under the jurisdiction, control, or  
3 authority of the department of transportation:

4       (1) The installation, placement, removal, relocation, or  
5 material modification of a traffic calming device or  
6 speed management device, including speed humps, speed  
7 tables, speed cushions, raised crosswalks, chicanes,  
8 curb extensions, lane narrowing, pedestrian refuge  
9 islands, channelizing devices, or other physical  
10 measures intended to reduce operating speeds or alter  
11 driver behavior;

12       (2) The establishment, reduction, increase, or other  
13 change to a posted regulatory speed limit by official  
14 signage; and

15       (3) Any other traffic control measure designated by the  
16 director of transportation by rule that has a  
17 substantial effect on operating speeds, vehicle  
18 stopping patterns, emergency response routing, or  
19 roadway capacity.

20       "Dashboard" means the publicly accessible traffic safety  
21 dashboard required under subsection (e).



1       "Traffic engineering study" means a documented engineering  
2       study or engineering and traffic investigation consistent with  
3       nationally recognized traffic engineering practice and  
4       applicable federal requirements and standards for traffic  
5       control devices, including the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control  
6       Devices, that evaluates site conditions and data and supports a  
7       final written determination for or against a covered traffic  
8       safety action.

9       "Validate" means supported by the traffic engineering study  
10      and consistent with applicable standards."

11       SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the  
12       application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
13       invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
14       applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
15       invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
16       of this Act are severable.

17       SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

18       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

19  
INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



# S.B. NO. 2954

**Report Title:**

DOT; Mandatory Traffic Studies; Traffic Safety Devices; Speed Humps; Speed Limit Changes; Public Dashboard; Reports

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Transportation to complete and publish a traffic engineering study before installing specified traffic safety devices or changing posted speed limits on state highways. Establishes a publicly accessible dashboard for requests, studies, decisions, and public comments. Requires annual reporting 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.*

