

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HONOAPIILANI HIGHWAY COASTAL MITIGATION PROJECT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Honoapiilani
2 highway, also known as state route 30, serves as the only
3 continuous motor vehicle access connecting West Maui to the rest
4 of the island. Thus, the highway's integrity is essential for
5 the movement of residents, visitors, goods, emergency services,
6 and essential supplies in and out of the region. It is
7 especially critical to the rebuilding of Lahaina that this
8 corridor is protected from interruption.

9 The legislature further finds that the existing alignment
10 of Honoapiilani highway, between Papalaua beach park in
11 Ukumehame and Launiupoko, lies at or near mean sea level and is
12 chronically vulnerable to coastal hazards, including accelerated
13 coastal erosion, seasonal high-wave flooding, storm surge, and
14 projected sea level rise. These hazards have repeatedly caused
15 roadway damage and temporary closures, necessitating emergency
16 repairs, and conditions are expected to worsen as the effects of
17 climate change intensify.



1 The legislature recognizes that previous short-term
2 protective measures, including seawalls and revetments, have
3 proven inadequate or controversial due to environmental,
4 cultural, and sustainability concerns. Therefore, inland
5 relocation of the vulnerable coastal highway alignment remains
6 the only feasible means of providing reliable, resilient access
7 for the foregoing purposes.

8 The legislature also finds that multiple formal assessments
9 by the department of transportation and federal partners,
10 including a completed final environmental impact statement, have
11 repeatedly documented the purpose of and need for the proposed
12 relocation project. The assessments have led to the highway
13 segments at Olowalu and Ukumehame being ranked among the
14 highest-priority coastal erosion and vulnerability sites in the
15 State. These segments have been subject to multiple emergency
16 interventions that do not provide long-term resilience.

17 The legislature acknowledges that while the relocation of
18 the Honoapiilani highway is critical to the safety, health, and
19 economic well-being of Maui residents, federal support for
20 infrastructure resilience projects remains uncertain and
21 competitive. Consequently, it is a matter of statewide priority



1 to ensure that all moneys appropriated, allocated, or received--
2 whether from federal, state, or private entities--are applied
3 exclusively to the planning, design, permitting, acquisition,
4 and construction of the inland highway relocation in the
5 essential Ukumehame-Launiupoko corridor, and not diverted to
6 ancillary projects that do not directly contribute to the
7 State's primary transportation duties and objectives.

8 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

9 (1) Appropriate state and federal funds for this critical
10 relocation project; and

11 (2) Establish the legislature's intent that these funds be
12 used exclusively for the relocation of the
13 Honoapiilani highway, and not for ancillary traffic
14 devices that may diminish the green time for the main
15 line.

16 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue
17 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$76,700,000 or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof
19 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2026-2027
20 for the purpose of financing capital improvements for the
21 Honoapiilani highway coastal mitigation project; provided that

1 \$306,800,000 in federal funding is received for the same;
2 provided further that no sum shall be expended for any purpose
3 other than the relocation of the highway pursuant to the coastal
4 mitigation project.

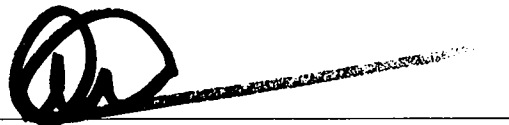
5 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated for the capital
6 improvement project set forth in section 1 shall be expended by
7 the department of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital
9 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at
10 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is
11 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation
12 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2955

Report Title:

B&F; GO Bonds; Honoapiilani Highway; Coastal Mitigation;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates moneys to finance capital improvements for the Honoapiilani Highway coastal mitigation project.

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