

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that fostering vibrant,  
2 sustainable, and livable communities can support the health,  
3 well-being, and connectivity of all residents. Streets and  
4 public spaces are invaluable resources that, when adapted for  
5 multi-use purposes, can enhance community life by providing safe  
6 and inclusive opportunities for recreation, active  
7 transportation, and cultural engagement. In line with this  
8 vision, the State seeks to establish a summer streets program to  
9 reimagine urban spaces, drawing inspiration from the successful  
10 pilot program initiated in Malmo, Sweden in 2017.

11           The legislature further finds that Malmo's program  
12 demonstrated the transformative power of temporarily repurposing  
13 streets and public spaces into dynamic areas for pedestrian use,  
14 cycling, and community-centered activities. This initiative not  
15 only encouraged greater public participation and physical  
16 activity, but also bolstered local businesses and improved  
17 environmental outcomes. By creating similar spaces across the



1 State, the State can build stronger connections between  
2 residents, foster a sense of belonging, and promote healthier  
3 lifestyles.

4 The State's unique geographic and cultural landscape offers  
5 a compelling opportunity to adapt and expand upon the Malmo  
6 model. Beyond transforming streets, this initiative will  
7 emphasize the importance of creating accessible public spaces  
8 that act as hubs for social interaction, cultural events, and  
9 local markets. These spaces will serve as central gathering  
10 points, enriching the lives of residents and supporting a  
11 stronger sense of community identity.

12 The legislature believes that a program modeled after  
13 Malmo's program aligns with the State's goal of reducing carbon  
14 emissions, encouraging sustainable transportation, and promoting  
15 community health. By prioritizing active lifestyles and  
16 providing equitable access to public spaces, the program will  
17 address public health challenges, such as physical inactivity,  
18 mental well-being, and social isolation, while supporting local  
19 businesses and reducing environmental impact.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1           (1) Require a county with a population no greater than  
2           three hundred thousand, in collaboration with the  
3           Hawaii community development authority, to establish a  
4           summer streets pilot program that temporarily closes  
5           vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian  
6           and cyclist uses;
- 7           (2) Require the Hawaii community development authority to  
8           select the county for the pilot program;
- 9           (3) Authorize the county to consult with the department of  
10          health regarding best practices for developing the  
11          pilot program;
- 12          (4) Require the county to submit an initial proposal to  
13          the executive director of the Hawaii community  
14          development authority;
- 15          (5) Require the Hawaii community development authority to  
16          submit a report to the Legislature; and
- 17          (6) Appropriate funds for the pilot program.

18          SECTION 2. (a) A county with a population no greater than  
19          three hundred thousand, in collaboration with the Hawaii  
20          community development authority, shall establish a summer  
21          streets pilot program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic



1 and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor  
2 events, temporary installations, and other community-driven  
3 activities; provided that the Hawaii community development  
4 authority shall select one county for the pilot program.

5 (b) In developing the summer streets pilot program, the  
6 county shall identify and designate specific streets for  
7 pedestrianization, prioritizing areas that will best benefit  
8 from reduced vehicular traffic, and that are central to local  
9 commerce, cultural activities, and community engagement. The  
10 summer streets pilot program shall support sustainable  
11 transportation options, including the provision of bike lanes  
12 and enhanced pedestrian pathways. The county may consult with  
13 the department of health regarding the best practices for  
14 developing the pilot program.

15 (c) The county selected by the Hawaii community  
16 development authority shall submit an initial proposal for the  
17 summer streets pilot program, including locations, schedules for  
18 road closures, types of activities and amenities to be provided,  
19 and a breakdown of projected costs to the executive director of  
20 the Hawaii community development authority no later than  
21 March 31, 2027.



1 (d) The Hawaii community development authority shall  
2 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
3 any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than  
4 July 1, 2027.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for  
8 the Hawaii community development authority to allocate to the  
9 selected county for the summer streets pilot program required by  
10 this Act.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii  
12 community development authority for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

HCDA; Counties; DOH; Summer Streets Pilot Program; Report; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires a county with a population of no greater than three hundred thousand, in collaboration with the Hawaii Community Development Authority, to establish a Summer Streets Pilot Program that closes vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor events, and other community-driven activities. Requires the Hawaii Community Authority to select the county for the pilot program. Authorizes the county to consult with the Department of Health. Requires the county to submit an initial proposal to the Hawaii Community Development Authority. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

