

JAN 30 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENCAMPMENTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that encampments,
2 including tents, makeshift shelters, and other temporary
3 structures used for habitation can pose public safety or traffic
4 hazards when located near roadways. Sweeps and clearances of
5 encampments are done frequently, though without a mandated
6 buffer zone along highly trafficked roadways, substantial
7 resources are being allocated to these efforts yet do not lead
8 to lasting results.

9 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the
10 erection, placement, construction, or maintenance of an
11 encampment within one hundred feet of a state highway right-of-
12 way.

13 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
14 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
15 as follows:

16 **"CHAPTER**

17 **STATE HIGHWAY ENCAMPMENT BUFFER ZONE**



1 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

2 "Buffer zone" means one hundred feet from a state highway
3 right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the state department of
4 transportation.

5 "Encampment" means a tent, makeshift shelter, or any other
6 temporary structure used for habitation.

7 **§ -2 Buffer zone; state highways.** (a) No person shall
8 erect, place, construct, or maintain an encampment within a
9 buffer zone of state highway.

10 (b) Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be
11 subject to immediate removal and may be subject to a fine not to
12 exceed \$200.

13 (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude a person from
14 being charged with a trespassing violation pursuant to chapter
15 708 or any other violation.

16 (d) Law enforcement personnel enforcing this section shall
17 provide information related to temporary housing and
18 homelessness assistance programs to individuals displaced from
19 encampments.

20 (e) Law enforcement personnel shall take the personal
21 belongings of individuals displaced from encampments into



1 custody and store them at the police station or other designated
2 location, to be returned to the individual upon release from
3 custody."

4 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

5

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 3287

Report Title:

Encampments; Buffer Zone; State Highway Right-Of-Way;
Prohibition

Description:

Prohibits the erection, placement, construction, or maintenance of an encampment within one hundred feet from a state highway right-of-way.

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