
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 Hawaii experienced
2 its deadliest year on the roads since 2007, with one hundred
3 twenty-nine traffic fatalities in 2025, which is a staggering
4 thirty-two per cent increase from the previous year. The
5 fatalities included forty motor vehicle occupants, thirty-nine
6 motorcycle and motor scooter riders, and thirty-eight
7 pedestrians, with over ninety per cent of these crashes
8 attributed to risky behaviors such as speeding and impairment.

9 The legislature further finds that among the lives lost was
10 19-year-old Tehya Mahelona, who was walking to her job in
11 Nanakuli when she was fatally struck in a chain-reaction crash
12 caused by speeding. A devoted sister and aspiring pilot, Tehya
13 was known for her independence, compassion, and commitment to
14 helping others - qualities that defined her as a role model in
15 her family and community.

16 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to direct and
17 appropriate funds for the Department of Transportation to



1 install pedestrian safety improvements at sites abutting school
2 properties, with consideration for other sites.

3 SECTION 2. This Act shall be in honor of Tehya Mahelona.

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the state highway
5 fund established pursuant to section 248-8, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes, the sum of \$4,000,000 or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the department of
8 transportation to install pedestrian safety improvements at
9 sites abutting school properties; provided that the department
10 may consider other sites.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,000,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
16 department of transportation to install pedestrian safety
17 improvements at sites abutting school properties; provided that
18 the department may consider other sites.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 transportation for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. For the installation of pedestrian safety
2 improvements at sites abutting school properties pursuant to
3 sections 3 and 4, the following conditions shall apply:

4 (1) An eligible pedestrian safety improvement shall
5 include all-way crosswalks, raised intersections, or
6 combination of both, where appropriate;

7 (2) The department of transportation shall prioritize
8 installations in areas where crash data, pedestrian
9 activity, or other traffic safety metrics support
10 enhanced protections; and

11 (3) The department of transportation may utilize
12 nationally recognized design guidance, including
13 National Association of City Transportation Officials
14 standards and applicable United States Department of
15 Transportation or Federal Highway Administration
16 guidance, to ensure the department's engineering
17 discretion in determining suitability and feasibility
18 at each site.

19 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DOT; Safe Routes to School; Pedestrian Safety Improvements;
Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation to install pedestrian safety improvements at sites abutting school properties, with consideration for other sites. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

