
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 \$ 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 safe routes to
14 school program special fund established pursuant to section
15 291C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
17 the department of transportation to install pedestrian safety
18 improvements at sites abutting school properties; provided that
19 the department may consider other sites.

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



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
 4 the department of transportation to install pedestrian safety
 5 improvements at sites abutting school properties; provided that
 6 the department may consider other sites.

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

9 SECTION 6. For the installation of pedestrian safety
 10 improvements at sites abutting school properties pursuant to
 11 sections 3, 4, and 5, the following conditions shall apply:

12 (1) Eligible pedestrian safety improvements may include
 13 all-way crosswalks, raised intersections, or a
 14 combination of both, as well as other measures
 15 determined appropriate by the department of
 16 transportation to enhance pedestrian safety;

17 (2) The department of transportation shall prioritize
 18 installations in areas where crash data, pedestrian
 19 activity, or other traffic safety metrics support
 20 enhanced protections; and



1 (3) The department of transportation may utilize
2 nationally recognized design guidance, including
3 National Association of City Transportation Officials
4 standards and applicable United States Department of
5 Transportation or Federal Highway Administration
6 guidance, to ensure the department's engineering
7 discretion in determining suitability and feasibility
8 at each site.

9 SECTION 7. 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. (HD2)

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