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# 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 2 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.



S.B. NO. 2955  
S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Department of Budget and Finance; 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. (SD1)

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