
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 each county, in collaboration with the Hawaii
2 community development authority, to establish a summer
3 streets pilot program that temporarily closes
4 vehicular traffic and repurposes roads for pedestrian
5 and cyclist uses;
- 6 (2) Authorize each county to consult with the department
7 of health regarding best practices for developing the
8 pilot program;
- 9 (3) Require each county to submit an initial proposal to
10 the executive director of the Hawaii community
11 development authority;
- 12 (4) Require the Hawaii community development authority to
13 submit a report to the Legislature; and
- 14 (5) Appropriate funds for the pilot program.

15 SECTION 2. (a) Each county, in collaboration with the
16 Hawaii community development authority, shall establish a summer
17 streets pilot program that temporarily closes vehicular traffic
18 and repurposes roads for pedestrian and cyclist use, outdoor
19 events, temporary installations, and other community-driven
20 activities.



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

11 (c) Each county shall submit an initial proposal for the
12 summer streets pilot program, including locations, schedules for
13 road closures, types of activities and amenities to be provided,
14 and a breakdown of projected costs to the executive director of
15 the Hawaii community development authority no later than
16 March 31, 2027.

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



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the
4 Hawaii community development authority to allocate to each
5 county for the summer streets pilot program required by this
6 Act.

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

9 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



Report Title:

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

Description:

Requires each county, 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. Authorizes each county to consult with the Department of Health. Requires each county to submit an initial proposal to HCDA. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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