
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 safe routes to
5 school program special fund established pursuant to section
6 291C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$2,000,000 or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
8 the department of transportation to install pedestrian safety
9 improvements at sites abutting school properties; provided that
10 the department 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. For the installation of pedestrian safety
14 improvements at sites abutting school properties pursuant to
15 section 3, the following conditions shall apply:

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



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

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

13 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



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. (CD1)

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

