

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Establishment of a Staggered Work Hour and/or Variable Time Program for State Employees.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that traffic congestion in Hawaii occurs mainly during peak morning and afternoon traffic hours when people commute along major traffic corridors to and from work. Hawaii's roads have adequate capacity to handle all but the heaviest peak hour traffic and the cost of constructing additional lanes to handle peak hour traffic would be unreasonably high, as the additional lanes would be greatly underutilized during normal traffic hours. The legislature further finds that staggered work hours and/or variable time programs used in conjunction with other transportation strategies such as carpooling, express bus service and van pools may lead not only to more efficient use of our streets and highways but may also obviate the need to construct other costly and unnecessary transportation facilities.

Staggered work hour and variable time programs have been initiated by government employers who have allowed employees to choose their own starting times, with favorable response. For example, in March, 1974, the City of Ottawa initiated a variable work hour program which significantly reduced peak hour traffic.

The legislature therefore finds that staggered work hours and/or variable time programs of sufficient scope to noticeably affect traffic congestion should be initiated by the governor to include all state offices and schools whose participation in the program would not unduly affect their delivery of services to the public. The staggered work hour and/or variable time programs should include identification of those offices capable of participation in the program, standards for monitoring the level of services provided to the public by these offices during the program's existence, and criteria to monitor the program's success in decreasing traffic congestion.

The legislature further finds that to achieve maximum effectiveness of a staggered work hour and/or variable time program would necessitate the joint cooperative efforts of the governor and the exclusive representatives of the appropriate collective bargaining units for State employees.

SECTION 2. Section 80-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 80-1 Office hours. Offices of the State and counties and independent boards and commissions thereof shall open for the transaction of public business between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive. By executive order, the governor may modify the hours of business offices, other agencies and schools in order to meet a demonstrated need for public services, to provide for the efficient operation of business, to encourage energy conservation and to reduce traffic congestion. Offices shall be closed on Saturday, except those which public convenience require shall remain open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Offices open on Saturday may be staffed with a skeleton force. A lunch period of forty-five minutes will be allowed all governmental personnel, which shall not constitute working time under this section.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 9, 1977.)

*Edited accordingly.