

ACT 21

H.B. NO. 2590

A Bill for an Act Relating to Autonomous Vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department of transportation an autonomous vehicles testing pilot program.

(b) An autonomous vehicle may be tested on any public road in the State; provided that a conventional human driver shall remain physically present in the vehicle at all times in case the conventional human driver needs to intervene, supervise, or prevent a collision or other issues during testing.

(c) The department of transportation may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, regarding the testing of autonomous vehicles.

(d) The department of transportation shall determine which entities shall be permitted to engage in the testing of autonomous vehicles in the State.

(e) As used in this section:

“Autonomous vehicle” means an automated-driving-system-equipped vehicle capable of performing all aspects of the dynamic driving task within its operational design domain, if any, including achieving a minimal risk condition, without any intervention or supervision by a conventional human driver.

ACT 21

“Conventional human driver” means a person who manually exercises in-vehicle braking, accelerating, steering, and transmission gear selection input devices in order to operate a motor vehicle.

SECTION 2. (a) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023, the department of transportation shall submit to the legislature a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, regarding the autonomous vehicles testing pilot program.

(b) The report shall include:

- (1) A recommendation of whether autonomous vehicles are ready to be fully deployed in Hawaii; and
- (2) Issues surrounding the feasibility and safety of the operation of autonomous vehicles on Hawaii’s roads, as well as other matters deemed relevant by the department of transportation.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved September 15, 2020.)