
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 there is an ongoing
2 trend of unacceptably high pedestrian fatalities in the State,
3 especially in its urban areas. Between 2001 and 2006, one
4 hundred eighty-one pedestrians died across the State, an average
5 of over thirty per year. Although pedestrian fatalities dropped
6 to twenty-nine in 2006 from thirty-six in 2005, Hawaii still
7 ranked eleventh nationally in pedestrian deaths and first in
8 deaths among pedestrians age sixty-five or older.

9 The legislature also finds that every day on average, one
10 or two people get hit by a car as they are walking on a street
11 somewhere on Oahu. Most of the accidents occur in a six-mile
12 long area between Kapahulu and Kalihi. Annually, two-thirds of
13 the statewide pedestrian fatalities occur on Oahu, most commonly
14 in business areas where drivers, pedestrians, and buses converge
15 to create a dangerous mix of people and vehicles on the move.

16 The legislature also finds that measures have been taken in
17 recent years to address pedestrian injuries and deaths. In
18 2004, the department of transportation launched its "walk wise



1 Hawaii" program, initially focusing on senior citizens. It was
2 later expanded to cover all pedestrians statewide and offers a
3 set of "steps to safety", written in ten different languages,
4 for pedestrians to follow. The legislature in 2005 strengthened
5 the law regarding pedestrians' right-of-way in crosswalks
6 requiring drivers to stop whenever a pedestrian is in the
7 crosswalk. County police departments have also stepped up their
8 education and enforcement efforts, issuing large number of
9 citations to both drivers and pedestrians.

10 The legislature further finds that pedestrian safety
11 programs comprise one per cent or less of the federal highway
12 funds spent in Hawaii. The overwhelming majority of funds is
13 spent on improvements such as road widening and other efforts to
14 remove obstacles to more rapid traffic flow. Clearly, more
15 needs to be done because the pedestrian death rate has remained
16 virtually unchanged for ten years.

17 The purpose of this Act is to decrease the pedestrian death
18 rate statewide by testing new pedestrian crosswalk safety
19 enhancements and programs in high-risk areas on Oahu.

20 SECTION 2. There is established in the city and county of
21 Honolulu a two-year pilot project to test crosswalk safety
22 enhancements and programs.



1 (a) The project shall test and evaluate enhancements and
2 programs including, but not limited to:

3 (1) Physical improvements such as:

4 (A) Raised bumps or buttons to reduce speed and warn
5 of upcoming crosswalks;

6 (B) Reflective raised crosswalk markings on the edge
7 of crosswalks closest to oncoming traffic;

8 (C) Pedestrian activated warning systems including
9 flashing lights embedded in the pavement, strung
10 overhead, or mounted on poles at the ends of
11 crosswalks and fixed lighting of the crosswalk
12 from above or from poles at the ends of
13 crosswalks; and

14 (D) Improved signage;

15 (2) Public outreach and education programs; and

16 (3) Enforcement programs by police and prosecutors.

17 (b) Criteria to be used in evaluating enhancements and
18 programs shall include, but not be limited to:

19 (1) Reduction in pedestrian injuries and fatalities;

20 (2) Speed and cost of implementing an enhancement,
21 including whether it can be implemented with minimal



1 trenching, wiring, or use of an external power source;

2 and

3 (3) Speed with which results are observed and whether the
4 results endure over time.

5 (c) The enhancements and programs shall be tested in
6 communities including, but not limited to:

7 (1) Waikiki, particularly along Kalakaua and Kuhio
8 avenues;

9 (2) Downtown Honolulu, on King, Beretania, and Bishop
10 streets;

11 (3) Kalihi, Palama and Liliha, including School street and
12 Nuuanu avenue;

13 (4) Aiea and Waipahu, along Farrington highway and
14 Moanalua road; and

15 (5) Farrington highway through the Leeward coast.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$, or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the
19 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2008-2009, for purposes of the crosswalk safety enhancements and
21 programs pilot project.



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the city and
2 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. The city and county of Honolulu shall report to
4 the legislature not later than twenty days prior to the
5 convening of the regular sessions of 2008 and 2009 on the
6 progress of the project, including any recommendations regarding
7 legislation, safety and enhancement programs that should be
8 extended or made permanent, and amounts and means of funding.

9 SECTION 5. The city and county of Honolulu shall seek
10 federal grants or other funds for purposes of the crosswalk
11 safety enhancements and programs pilot project.

12 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007, and
13 shall be repealed on June 30, 2009.

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Report Title:

Traffic Safety; Pedestrian Crosswalks

Description:

Establishes a pilot project to test crosswalk safety enhancements and programs in the city and county of Honolulu.

