
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The 2004 Elderly Pedestrian Integration Report
2 prepared by SMS Research & Marketing Services, Inc. for the
3 department of transportation indicated that there are
4 approximately five hundred sixty pedestrian injuries in Hawaii
5 each year, and that on average of twenty-eight pedestrians die
6 each year after being struck by a car. Elderly pedestrians, age
7 sixty-five and older, constituted the highest number of
8 pedestrian fatalities when compared to all other age groups in
9 Hawaii.

10 The length of a flashing indication (hand symbol) is
11 calculated based on the length of the crosswalk and the
12 nationally recognized average walking speed of pedestrians.

13 However, elderly pedestrians need more time to cross major
14 intersections due to diminishing physical abilities.

15 Considering that an elderly pedestrian generally crosses the
16 street at a slower walking speed, limited timeframes to cross
17 the street safely put elderly pedestrians at risk.



1 Recently, AARP Hawaii staff, volunteers, and community
2 partners gathered at intersections across Hawaii to conduct
3 "walkability" assessments along many of Hawaii's busiest streets
4 and identified many intersections where the timeframes to cross
5 the street safely were too short. Hawaii's elderly pedestrians
6 should not have to rush to cross the street. The length of a
7 flashing indication should be sufficient for elderly pedestrians
8 to cross the street safely.

9 While the elderly, children, and disabled persons are the
10 most vulnerable, ordinary citizen pedestrians are also at risk.
11 Already in 2007, nine pedestrians have been killed. At the
12 current rate, 2007 could be one of the most dangerous for
13 pedestrians ever in Hawaii. Immediate action is needed even as
14 a longer term study is conducted.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
16 department of transportation so that it can:

- 17 (1) Work with nonprofits and the counties to take
18 immediate action steps to make crosswalks and roadways
19 safer;
- 20 (2) Conduct a study to identify more intersections where
21 the time to cross the intersection is insufficient for
22 elderly pedestrians; and



1 (3) Develop additional plans to make crosswalks and
2 roadways safer.

3 Making Hawaii's roadways safer for pedestrians is
4 consistent with Kamehameha's famous law, Ke Kanawai Mamalahoe,
5 the law of the splintered paddle, which assures that every man,
6 woman, and child is able to travel freely and in peace. This
7 law is established as state law in article IX, section 10, of
8 the Hawaii state constitution:

9 "Let every elderly person, woman and child lie by the
10 roadside in safety -- shall be a unique and living
11 symbol of the State's concern for public safety."

12 SECTION 2. (a) The department of transportation shall
13 work with the counties and nonprofit organizations to identify
14 and implement immediate improvements to high-risk crosswalks and
15 road crossings. Examples of such immediate improvements, which
16 do not require extensive studies, include:

17 (1) Recalibrating traffic signals to lengthen crossing
18 times;

19 (2) Accelerating the schedule to replace non-timer
20 crossing signals with traffic countdown timers;

21 (3) Strategically reprioritizing installation of traffic
22 countdown timers based on how dangerous the



1 intersection ranks based on data, including the recent
2 AARP Hawaii study;

3 (4) Developing a statewide public awareness campaign;

4 (5) Pilot projects such as pedestrian-activated flashing
5 signals, portable hand-carried signs and flags;

6 (6) Advanced crosswalk markers; and

7 (7) Enforcement of crosswalk laws for cars and
8 pedestrians.

9 (b) The department of transportation shall conduct a study
10 to identify state and county intersections where the time to
11 cross the intersection is insufficient for elderly pedestrians,
12 and to develop additional design, funding, and installation
13 plans to make crosswalks and road crossings safer for
14 pedestrians.

15 (c) The department of transportation shall focus its study
16 on:

17 (1) The principle of the law of the splintered paddle, Ke
18 Kanawai Mamalahoe, that roadways need to be safely
19 shared among all road users;

20 (2) The need to consider the capabilities and needs of the
21 elderly, children, and disabled persons to use
22 appropriate roads as pedestrians;



1 (3) Impacts on current traffic volumes when pedestrians
2 walk times are lengthened and potential
3 countermeasures for the effects on traffic; and

4 (4) Streets, intersections, and communities having
5 insufficient timeframes for elderly persons to cross
6 the street safely.

7 (d) The department of transportation may:

8 (1) Contract out the study to a private contractor; and

9 (2) Involve the various county transportation departments
10 as appropriate.

11 (e) The department of transportation shall submit an
12 interim report to the legislature not later than twenty days
13 prior to the convening of the 2008 regular session and a final
14 report, including accomplishments, findings, future plans, cost
15 estimates, and any proposed legislation, to the legislature no
16 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2009
17 regular session.

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
20 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the sum of \$1
21 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
22 for the department of transportation to conduct a pilot study to



1 identify state and county intersections where the time to cross
2 the intersection is insufficient for elderly pedestrians;
3 provided that the department may consult with the counties and
4 nonprofit organizations as appropriate for purposes of the pilot
5 study.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
7 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
10 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum
11 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
12 for the purchase and installation of traffic countdown timers at
13 state-controlled intersections.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
15 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
18 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum
19 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
20 for a public awareness campaign on pedestrian safety.

21 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
22 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
 2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
 3 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum
 4 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
 5 for the purchase and installation of pedestrian activated
 6 signals, and for pilot projects such as the painting of advanced
 7 crosswalk markings, hand-carried signs and flags, enforcement of
 8 crosswalk laws for drivers and pedestrians, among others.

9 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
 10 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
 13 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum
 14 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009
 15 for grants-in aid to the counties for the purchase and
 16 installation of traffic countdown timers; provided that each
 17 county shall provide matching funds. The appropriation to each
 18 county shall be as follows:

- 19 (1) The city and county of Honolulu \$1
- 20 (2) Hawaii county \$1
- 21 (3) Kauai county \$1
- 22 (4) Maui county \$1



1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the respective
2 counties for the purposes of this section.

3 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



Report Title:

Pedestrian Safety; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of transportation for pedestrian safety measures such as traffic countdown timers, signals, painting of crosswalks, a public awareness campaign, and grants-in-aid for counties for pedestrian safety. (SD1)

