

JAN 23 2015

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that autonomous  
2 technology, commonly known as driverless vehicles, is fast  
3 developing nationwide and Hawaii should be at the forefront in  
4 passing legislation to allow the use of driverless vehicles. As  
5 of 2013, four states have passed laws permitting autonomous  
6 cars: California, Florida, Michigan, and Nevada.

7           In 2012, Florida enacted an autonomous technology measure  
8 to encourage the safe development, testing, and operation of  
9 motor vehicles with autonomous technology on its public roads.  
10 Florida does not prohibit or specifically regulate the testing  
11 or operation of autonomous technology in motor vehicles on  
12 public roads.

13           In addition, on December 22, 2014, Google Inc., unveiled a  
14 prototype of a fully functional self-driving car. Google plans  
15 to bring driverless cars to market after testing in the Bay Area  
16 in 2015. Google predicted two years ago that self-driving cars  
17 would be ready for public use by 2017.



1           The purpose of this Act is to allow for the safe  
2 development, testing, and operation of motor vehicles with  
3 autonomous technology on the public roads of the State.

4           SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
6 to read as follows:

7                       **"PART       .   AUTONOMOUS MOTOR VEHICLES**

8           **§286-       Definitions.** As used in this part:

9           "Autonomous motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle, as  
10 defined in section 291C-1, that is equipped with autonomous  
11 technology.

12           "Autonomous technology" means technology installed on a  
13 motor vehicle that has the capability to drive the vehicle on  
14 which the technology is installed without the active control or  
15 monitoring by a human operator. The term excludes a motor  
16 vehicle enabled with active safety systems or driver assistance  
17 systems, including a system to provide electronic blind spot  
18 assistance, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking  
19 assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assistance, lane  
20 departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistant, unless  
21 any such system alone or in combination with other systems



1 enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to  
2 drive without the active control or monitoring by a human  
3 operator.

4 **§286- Autonomous motor vehicles; operation.** (a)

5 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, beginning , a  
6 person who possesses a valid Hawaii driver license may operate  
7 an autonomous motor vehicle that employs autonomous technology  
8 on any highway, roadway, or street, as those terms are defined  
9 in section 291C-1.

10 (b) A person shall be deemed to be the operator of an  
11 autonomous motor vehicle operating in autonomous mode when the  
12 person causes the motor vehicle's autonomous technology to  
13 engage, regardless of whether the person is physically present  
14 in the motor vehicle while the vehicle is operating in  
15 autonomous mode.

16 **§286- Autonomous motor vehicle safety requirements.** (a)

17 An autonomous motor vehicle that is allowed to be operated in  
18 this State shall, at a minimum, comply with the following  
19 requirements:

20 (1) Have a current official certificate of inspection  
21 under section 286-25 and be certified with a



1 certificate of inspection under section 286-26;  
2 provided that the department of transportation shall  
3 adopt rules for purposes of this paragraph;

4 (2) Meet federal standards and regulations for a motor  
5 vehicle;

6 (3) Have a means to engage and disengage the autonomous  
7 technology which is easily accessible to the operator;

8 (4) Have a means, inside the vehicle, to visually indicate  
9 when the motor vehicle is operating in autonomous  
10 mode;

11 (5) Have a means to alert the operator of the motor  
12 vehicle if a technology failure affecting the ability  
13 of the vehicle to safely operate autonomously is  
14 detected while the vehicle is operating autonomously  
15 in order to indicate to the operator to take control  
16 of the motor vehicle; and

17 (6) Be capable of being operated in compliance with the  
18 applicable traffic and motor vehicle laws of this  
19 State and the county in which the autonomous vehicle  
20 operates;



1 (b) Federal regulations for motor vehicles and traffic  
2 safety adopted by the National Highway Traffic Safety  
3 Administration shall supersede this section when found to be in  
4 conflict with this section.

5 §286- Road testing of autonomous motor vehicles. (a)  
6 Motor vehicles equipped with autonomous technology may be  
7 operated on a highway, roadway, and street, as those terms are  
8 defined in section 291C-1, by employees, contractors, or other  
9 persons designated by manufacturers of autonomous technology for  
10 the purpose of testing the technology; provided that for testing  
11 purposes, a human operator shall be present in the autonomous  
12 vehicle to monitor the vehicle's performance and intervene, if  
13 necessary, unless the motor vehicle is being tested or  
14 demonstrated on a closed course.

15 (b) Prior to the start of testing in this State, the  
16 entity performing the testing must submit to the director an  
17 instrument of insurance, surety bond, or proof of self-insurance  
18 acceptable to the director in the amount of \$5,000,000."

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

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# S.B. NO. 630

**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicles; Autonomous Technology

**Description:**

Allows a person who possesses a valid Hawaii driver license to operate an autonomous motor vehicle that employs autonomous technology. Defines autonomous vehicle. Defines autonomous technology. Requires certain safety features. Specifies certain conditions for safety testing.

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

