
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRAFFIC SAFETY.

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

1 SECTION 1. With over one million registered cars, trucks,
2 sport utility vehicles, and motorcycles in Hawaii and thousands
3 of lane miles of road, motorized transportation plays a big part
4 in the lives of most Hawaii residents. From the urban center of
5 Honolulu with a congested interstate highway network to winding
6 country roads, motor vehicles have provided a convenient mode of
7 transportation for Hawaii's residents. However, with continued
8 population growth in the State and a concomitant increase in
9 vehicular traffic, traffic patterns have drastically changed for
10 all users of Hawaii's roadways, including drivers, pedestrians,
11 and bicyclists; unfortunately, accidents do happen.

12 Motor vehicle crashes in Hawaii, including those involving
13 pedestrians and bicyclists, occur at a surprisingly high rate,
14 and the statistics are sobering. According to department of
15 transportation statistics, in Hawaii:

16 (1) Approximately ten thousand serious traffic crashes
17 occur each year;



- 1 (2) There are between one hundred twenty and one hundred
2 fifty traffic fatalities each year;
- 3 (3) Between eight thousand and twelve thousand people are
4 seriously injured in car accidents annually;
- 5 (4) Over five hundred people are seriously injured when
6 hit by a vehicle and between twenty and thirty people
7 are killed each year in pedestrian accidents; and
- 8 (5) Hundreds of individuals are in accidents involving a
9 motor vehicle and bicycle or motor scooter with
10 between ten and twenty individuals killed annually.

11 The prevalence of motor vehicle collisions and the resulting
12 injuries do not appear to be subsiding and present a real
13 crisis. In January 2015, there have already been five fatal
14 motor vehicle crashes and four pedestrian fatalities involving
15 motor vehicles on Oahu's roadways.

16 Besides speeding, reckless driving, and driving under the
17 influence of an intoxicant, the major causes of motor vehicle
18 collisions in Hawaii include failing to yield, crossing the
19 yellow line, driving in the wrong direction on a roadway,
20 turning improperly, and distracted driving. While some
21 collisions may be caused by outdated roadway design, a majority



1 of these collisions result from human error. Better education
2 for all roadway users, improved roadway design, and increased
3 enforcement of current traffic laws may be some methods of
4 addressing this problem.

5 Vision Zero, a framework for reducing traffic fatalities to
6 zero, was first developed in Sweden in 1997. Vision Zero is
7 guided by the principle that convenience to the users of a city
8 or nation's roadways should never take precedence over human
9 life. The Vision Zero framework includes strategies to reduce
10 traffic deaths through the design of the transportation system
11 and the education of its users. In Sweden, initiation of the
12 Vision Zero program has met with success. In 2009, total
13 traffic fatalities was reduced by thirty five per cent of the
14 total number of traffic fatalities in 1997. In 2011, Sweden
15 experienced two hundred twenty-seven fewer fatalities on its
16 roadways than it did in 1997.

17 The Vision Zero movement has evolved over the years and has
18 now spread to Norway, the United Kingdom, and to several cities
19 in the United States, including San Francisco, New York City,
20 and Charleston, South Carolina. All of these cities have set
21 goals to reduce traffic fatalities through education, roadway



1 design, and traffic enforcement within the next ten years with
2 the ultimate goal of zero traffic fatalities.

3 The city of Copenhagen once had car-centric infrastructure
4 and traffic problems similar to Honolulu today. However, over
5 the past forty years, Copenhagen has worked to establish goals
6 and has changed policies to diversify transportation available
7 in the city in an effort to reduce the dependency on motor
8 vehicles as a means of transportation. Today, forty per cent of
9 city commuters travel by bicycle, which has removed motor
10 vehicles from the roads, reduced traffic and commute times,
11 increased roadway safety, and increased health and happiness for
12 local residents.

13 The purpose of this Act is to convene a task force in the
14 department of transportation to study issues involved in fatal
15 traffic collisions in Hawaii and develop and recommend a plan
16 to:

- 17 (1) Reduce the number of fatalities in Hawaii to zero; and
18 (2) Study the issues involved in diversifying
19 transportation alternatives and recommend a plan to
20 reduce dependency on motor vehicles as a means of



1 transportation and significantly increase daily
2 commutes using other alternatives.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a vision zero task
4 force within the department of transportation for administrative
5 purposes. The task force shall be composed of the following
6 members:

- 7 (1) The director of transportation, or the director's
8 designee, who shall serve as the chairperson of the
9 task force;
- 10 (2) The director of health, or the director's designee;
- 11 (3) The attorney general, or the attorney general's
12 designee;
- 13 (4) The chair of the house of representatives standing
14 committee on transportation, or the chair's designee;
- 15 (5) The chair of the senate standing committee on
16 transportation, or the chair's designee;
- 17 (6) The prosecuting attorney of the city and county of
18 Honolulu or the prosecuting attorney's designee, who
19 shall also serve as the liaison of the task force to
20 the chief legal adviser and legal representative of
21 the other counties;



- 1 (7) The director of the department of transportation
2 services of the city and county of Honolulu, or the
3 director's designee, who shall also serve as the
4 liaison of the task force to the directors of
5 transportation of the other counties;
- 6 (8) The chief of police of the city and county of
7 Honolulu, or a designee of the chief of police, who
8 shall serve as the liaison of the task force to the
9 chiefs of police of the other counties;
- 10 (9) The chair of the injury prevention advisory committee,
11 or the chair's designee;
- 12 (10) A member who is a traffic safety expert;
- 13 (11) A member who is a roadway user; and
- 14 (12) Any other agency or designee deemed appropriate by the
15 director of transportation.
- 16 (b) Members of the task force shall serve without
17 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for any necessary
18 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
19 of duties under this Act.



1 (c) No member of the task force shall be made subject to
2 chapter 84, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely because of that
3 member's participation on the task force.

4 (d) The vision zero task force shall study the various
5 issues involved in, and make recommendations for, a plan to
6 address traffic fatalities in Hawaii with a goal of:

7 (1) Reducing the number of traffic fatalities to zero by
8 2040; and

9 (2) Increasing daily commutes by alternative modes of
10 transportation to thirty per cent of all daily
11 commutes by 2040.

12 (e) The plan shall include the following:

13 (1) Research of all issues involved in fatal traffic
14 collisions in Hawaii, including roadway design and
15 human error;

16 (2) Development of a framework for reducing traffic
17 fatalities in Hawaii including the improved safety of
18 Hawaii's roadway network;

19 (3) Prioritization of capital improvement projects, and
20 other projects, aimed at making Hawaii a safer place



- 1 for pedestrians and bicyclists, particularly our
2 kupuna;
- 3 (4) Development of traffic calming measures to encourage
4 slower speeds, particularly in residential
5 neighborhoods;
- 6 (5) Engineering methods to ensure the safety of streets
7 and intersections including traffic signal
8 modifications, intersection and street configurations,
9 roadway regulations, and traffic signs and markings;
- 10 (6) Promotion of educational programs informing the public
11 about Hawaii's traffic laws, particularly with regard
12 to pedestrian-rights-of-way;
- 13 (7) Increased promotion of programs promoting pedestrian
14 and bicycle safety;
- 15 (8) Increased enforcement of current traffic laws;
- 16 (9) Promotion of the use of mass transit, walking,
17 bicycling, and other means of transportation other
18 than a motor vehicle;
- 19 (10) Establishment of a connected network of protected
20 walking and bicycling paths in urban and suburban
21 communities;



1 (11) Establishment of uninterrupted highways for bicycling
2 in urban areas that connect residential and commercial
3 centers; and

4 (12) Any other issues that may reduce traffic fatalities
5 and decrease dependency on motor vehicles for daily
6 transportation needs.

7 (f) The vision zero task force shall submit an interim
8 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
9 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty
10 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2016. The
11 vision zero task force shall submit the final report of its
12 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
13 legislation, to the legislature by November 30, 2016.

14 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
18 2016-2017 to enable the vision zero task force to carry out the
19 purposes of this Act, including the hiring of necessary staff.

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



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 29 2015



H.B. NO. 1510

Report Title:

Traffic Fatalities; Motorists; Pedestrians; Bicyclists; Task Force; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the vision zero task force to study the various issues involved in traffic fatalities and make recommendations for a plan to address these issues with a goal of reducing the number of traffic fatalities in Hawaii to zero by 2025. Appropriates funds.

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