
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FERRIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State of Hawaii
2 is comprised of a chain of islands, six of which have major
3 population centers, limited by air and water transportation
4 options. Unlike the forty-eight contiguous states, Hawaii does
5 not have the benefit of being linked to other states through the
6 federal interstate highway system or a network of intersecting
7 state and local highways and roads.

8 The legislature also finds that while property is
9 transported between islands via time consuming inter-island
10 shipping and barge operations, the principal means of
11 transporting people between islands is mostly limited to costly
12 air transportation or small ocean charters. There are security
13 concerns associated with residents and visitors being overly
14 reliant on one inter-island carrier and a few smaller commuter
15 operations, as airports face severe operational disruption in
16 the event of a significant natural or mad-made disaster.



1 The legislature further finds that a previous attempt at
2 implementing a statewide inter-island ferry operation, giving
3 effect to chapter 268, failed due to a lack of mandatory
4 environmental impact statements. However, the limited run of
5 the Hawaii Superferry did prove to be a successful mode of
6 transportation, for both persons and limited property, between
7 the islands of Maui and Oahu. For a period of time, the
8 operation connected family members, provided individuals
9 physically unable to fly with a less burdensome alternative to
10 air travel, and supported inter-island business opportunities.

11 An inter-island shuttle service is the missing link in
12 Hawaii's transportation system, providing critical connections
13 essential for the health, safety, and well-being of the people
14 of Hawaii. For these reasons, the legislature finds that the
15 State should make it a priority to facilitate more efficient and
16 affordable inter-island commuting options.

17 The purpose of this Act is to direct the department of land
18 and natural resources to conduct any necessary environmental
19 impact statements to enable the department of transportation to
20 fully implement a Hawaii state ferry system.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 268, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§268- Provision for an environmental impact statement.

5 (a) The department of land and natural resources shall conduct
6 any necessary environmental impact statements pursuant to
7 Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for an inter-island or
8 intra-island ferry system authorized by this chapter.

9 (b) Any private ferry system currently in operation or
10 created in the future may utilize environmental impact
11 statements conducted pursuant to subsection (a) for future
12 operations."

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the environmental
14 response, energy, and food security tax pursuant to section 243-
15 3.5 the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for
16 fiscal year 2015-2016 and the same sum or so much thereof as may
17 be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to carry out the purpose
18 of this Act.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
20 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

21 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



H.B. NO. 415

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2015



H.B. NO. 415

Report Title:

Transportation; Ferry System

Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources to conduct any necessary environmental impact statements for the establishment of the Hawaii state ferry system. Makes an appropriation.

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

