



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1298**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

July 1, 2016

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Joseph M. Souki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Souki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 1, 2016, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2618 SD1 HD2 CD1

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION  
**ACT 196 (16)**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Approved by the Governor

on JUL 1 2016

THE SENATE  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016  
STATE OF HAWAII

**ACT 196**  
**S.B. NO.**

2618  
S.D. 1  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

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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. Unlike other states, Hawaii is not linked to  
2 other states by the federal interstate highway system or a  
3 network of interconnected state and local highways.  
4 Furthermore, for Hawaii, air transportation is often the only  
5 efficient means of travel to another state, as well as between  
6 Hawaii's major islands and between different harbors of an  
7 island. An interisland and intra-island ferry system can serve  
8 as an efficient alternative for transporting passengers, cargo,  
9 farm produce, and motor vehicles.

10           Washington State Ferries, which is part of the Washington  
11 State Department of Transportation, operates the largest ferry  
12 system in the United States. Washington State Ferries employs  
13 approximately eighteen hundred people and is Washington's most  
14 popular tourist attraction. Alaska also has a successful ferry  
15 system.

16           S.R. No. 116, S.D. 1, Regular Session of 2015, adopted on  
17 April 9, 2015, requests the department of transportation to  
18 study the feasibility of establishing an interisland ferry



1 system, among other things, and report its findings and  
2 recommendations to the legislature prior to the 2016 regular  
3 session. However, the department may need additional funding  
4 and time to undertake and complete the study.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
6 transportation to conduct a study on the feasibility of  
7 establishing an interisland and intra-island ferry system and to  
8 make an appropriation for expenses accordingly.

9 SECTION 2. The department of transportation shall conduct  
10 a study on the feasibility of establishing an interisland and  
11 intra-island ferry system similar to the ferry systems operated  
12 by Washington State and other jurisdictions, including proposed  
13 legislation. In conducting the study, the department shall:

- 14 (1) Include a comparison of various jurisdictions with
- 15 successful ferry systems including Washington and
- 16 Alaska;
- 17 (2) Emphasize compliance of the ferry system with the
- 18 State's environmental protection laws, including
- 19 chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 20 (3) Identify appropriate routes and harbors for the ferry
- 21 system;



- 1           (4) Consider the potential costs and revenues of the ferry  
2           system;
- 3           (5) Include financing options for the ferry system,  
4           including the establishment of rates or fees to  
5           address operating costs;
- 6           (6) Consider the particulars of the ferry system,  
7           including vessel design and speed, passenger capacity,  
8           cargo capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility  
9           with harbor infrastructure;
- 10          (7) Consider and determine the impacts the ferry system  
11          would have on traffic congestion on all islands served  
12          by the ferry; and
- 13          (8) Consider the impacts the ferry system could have on  
14          the transmission of invasive species between islands  
15          and determine inspection requirements to limit the  
16          transmission of invasive species between islands.

17          SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall report  
18          its findings and recommendations, including proposed  
19          legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior  
20          to the convening of the regular session of 2018.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the  
4 department of transportation to conduct a study on the  
5 feasibility of establishing an interisland and intra-island  
6 ferry system as described in this Act.

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

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

APPROVED this 1 day of JUL, 2016



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII