
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AUTONOMOUS MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a modern and obvious
2 innovation that should be explored in Hawaii is autonomous, or
3 "driverless", motor vehicles, which can potentially save lives
4 and reduce commuting times. The Institute of Electrical and
5 Electronics Engineers has predicted that seventy-five per cent
6 of vehicles will be "driverless" by 2040. It would therefore
7 benefit our state to prepare for inevitable technological
8 advances and authorize, for testing purposes, the operation of
9 autonomous vehicles. Thus far, California, Florida, and Nevada
10 have all approved driverless vehicle testing on their roads, and
11 Georgia is considering it as well. Outside of the United
12 States, Japan conducted its first test of driverless vehicles on
13 a public road in 2013, with the United Kingdom scheduled to do
14 the same in 2015.

15 The purpose of this Act is to authorize, for testing
16 purposes, the operation of autonomous vehicles in this state.



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

4 "PART . AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

5 **§286-A Authorization.** The director shall authorize, no
6 later than January 1, 2018, the development of an autonomous
7 vehicle testing program, to be administered by the department of
8 transportation.

9 **§286-B Application and approval process.** The department
10 shall establish, no later than January 1, 2019, an application
11 and approval process by which autonomous vehicle manufacturers
12 and other interested parties may seek to test autonomous
13 vehicles in the State. Prior to granting any approval for
14 testing, the department shall require, at a minimum,
15 satisfactory evidence of the following:

- 16 (a) The applicant's safety record;
- 17 (b) The applicant's insured or bonded status;
- 18 (c) The autonomous vehicle's safety features, including
19 the presence of a manual override feature; and
- 20 (d) The ease with which the autonomous vehicle's operator
21 can activate and deactivate the autonomous technology.



1 **§286-C Fees.** The department may assess any fees necessary
2 to cover the costs of application processing and program
3 administration.

4 **§286-D Rules.** The department shall adopt rules under
5 chapter 91 to implement this part.

6 **§286-E Penalties.** The department shall establish
7 administrative penalties for noncompliance with the requirements
8 of this part or with rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91.

9 **§286-F Reports to the legislature.** (a) No later than
10 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, and
11 beginning with the regular session of 2020, the director shall
12 submit a report to the legislature that addresses the following:

- 13 (1) The feasibility and safety implications of authorizing
14 the operation of autonomous vehicles beyond the
15 testing phase;
- 16 (2) The adoption or amendment of relevant administrative
17 rules issued pursuant to this part;
- 18 (3) Any additional legislative action that may be required
19 for the safe testing and operation of autonomous
20 vehicles; and



1 (4) Detailed information on the autonomous vehicle
2 manufacturers and other interested parties who
3 submitted applications pursuant to section 286-B
4 during the preceding twelve-month period."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$_____ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2018-2019 for the establishment of the autonomous vehicle
10 testing program and any associated costs.

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

13 SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section
14 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
15 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
16 the new sections in this Act.

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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H.B. NO. 1596

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Report Title:

Autonomous Motor Vehicles; Testing

Description:

Authorizes for testing purposes the operation of autonomous vehicles in the State of Hawaii. Requires Department of Transportation to establish an application and approval process and report annually to the legislature. 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.

