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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 the department of  
2 transportation manages and spends more taxpayer dollars than  
3 nearly any other state agency. Most departments of  
4 transportation throughout the country have robust mechanisms to  
5 ensure funds are best spent, including publicly transparent  
6 processes to evaluate, select, and track projects; oversight  
7 commissions of expert stakeholders to independently monitor,  
8 evaluate, and provide guidance to the department and  
9 policymakers; and regular robust reporting that meaningfully  
10 measures and assesses overall progress toward public policy  
11 goals.

12           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the name,  
13 composition, and duties of the state highway safety council to  
14 make the council an independently led group of expert  
15 stakeholders that may review the department of transportation's  
16 efforts to ensure transparency and provide guidance to the  
17 department and legislature to help achieve state transportation  
18 goals and outcomes.



1 SECTION 2. Section 286-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§286-5 State highway safety and modernization council.

4 (a) There is established the Hawaii highway safety and  
5 modernization council. [~~The director of transportation shall~~  
6 ~~serve as its chairperson.~~] The council shall be chaired on an  
7 annually rotating basis by a member appointed by the president  
8 of the senate and a member appointed by the speaker of the house  
9 of representatives. In addition to the member appointed by the  
10 president of the senate and member appointed by the speaker of  
11 the house of representatives, the following or their designated  
12 representatives shall be members of the council: the chief  
13 justice, the attorney general, the director of health, the  
14 superintendent of education, the executive director of the state  
15 public charter school commission, the president of the  
16 University of Hawaii, the chairperson of the University of  
17 Hawaii at Manoa department of urban and regional planning, the  
18 co-chairpersons of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and  
19 adaptation commission, the director of the office of planning  
20 and sustainable development, the chief energy officer of the  
21 Hawaii state energy office, an additional two members appointed



1 by the president of the senate and speaker of the house of  
2 representatives, respectively, the chairperson of each of the  
3 county highway safety councils established under section 286-6,  
4 and not more than [~~twenty~~] twelve other persons who shall be  
5 appointed by the governor for a three-year term as follows:

6 (1) One member from an organization representing senior  
7 citizens;

8 (2) One member from an organization representing  
9 bicyclists;

10 (3) One member from an organization having a focus on  
11 micro-mobility;

12 (4) One member from an organization having a focus on  
13 transportation, planning, and improvement;

14 (5) One member from an organization having a focus on  
15 reducing the cost of transportation for low-income  
16 communities;

17 (6) One member from an organization representing labor and  
18 construction;

19 (7) One member from an organization representing trucking  
20 and cargo carriers;



1       (8) One member from an organization having a focus on the  
2       electrification of transportation;

3       (9) One member from an organization having a focus on  
4       expanding trees and foliage and reducing urban heat;

5       (10) One member from an organization representing the  
6       automobile manufacturing industry; and

7       (11) Up to two members on the basis of their interest in  
8       [highway] transportation safety[-] and related state  
9       goals.

10       (b) The state highway safety and modernization council  
11 shall ~~advise~~:

12       (1) Review programs, projects, plans, and strategies  
13       related to improving safety in ground transportation  
14       in the department of transportation;

15       (2) Ensure transparency and oversight in programs,  
16       projects, decisions, and spending related to ground  
17       transportation in the department of transportation;

18       (3) Establish metrics and benchmarks for the department of  
19       transportation to ensure progress on state goals  
20       related to ground transportation, safety, and other  
21       related goals;



- 1        (4) Review projects in development and make  
2        recommendations for how each project might be  
3        improved, if warranted, to better meet state goals,  
4        before project plans and designs are finalized;
- 5        (5) Provide direction to the department of transportation  
6        and make recommendations to the legislature as  
7        necessary to ensure progress on state goals related to  
8        ground transportation, safety, and other related  
9        goals;
- 10       (6) Advise the governor, legislature, and public on  
11       matters relating to the programs [and], activities,  
12       projects, outcomes, and recommendations of the State  
13       in the field of [highway] transportation safety[-];  
14       and
- 15       (7) Submit an annual report to the department of  
16       transportation that reflects the work,  
17       responsibilities, and recommendations of the council.
- 18       (c) The members of the council shall serve without pay but  
19       shall be entitled to reimbursement for necessary expenses while  
20       attending meetings and while in discharge of their duties."



1 SECTION 3. Members of the state highway safety and  
2 modernization council who are appointed and serving on the  
3 council before the effective date of this Act shall continue to  
4 serve any remaining time left in their terms; provided that  
5 their respective expertise aligns with the council membership  
6 requirements pursuant to this Act.

7 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
8 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



**Report Title:**

State Highway Safety and Modernization Council; Composition;  
Duties

**Description:**

Renames the State Highway Safety Council to the State Highway Safety and Modernization Council. Amends the composition and duties of the State Highway Safety and Modernization Council. Effective 7/1/2023. (CD1)

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