
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 traffic-related
2 deaths and fatalities in the State have significantly increased
3 over the past decade. In 2014, there were ninety-five deaths
4 and three hundred seventy-eight serious injuries in the State.
5 In 2019, Hawaii led the nation in pedestrian deaths of kupuna.
6 In 2022, these numbers grew to a record one hundred seventeen
7 deaths and five hundred seventy-two serious injuries. Hawaii's
8 students are also frequently hit by cars, and unfortunately all
9 too often seriously injured or killed while walking or biking to
10 school.

11 The legislature also finds that other places, including
12 cities of similar size and population to Honolulu, have
13 successfully reduced traffic-related fatalities to zero in some
14 years by making safety the top priority for project spending and
15 by investing in safer infrastructure accordingly.

16 However, the legislature recognizes that, in Hawaii,
17 decades of automobile-centric planning and development have



1 created formidable barriers to safe walking and bicycling,
2 especially for students and kupuna. These barriers include a
3 lack of complete, protected, and comfortable bike and pedestrian
4 networks; burdensome and complicated funding mechanisms for safe
5 routes projects; complicated coordination between state and
6 county agencies and community-based organizations to identify
7 and prioritize projects; and most of all, a lack of dedicated
8 funding. The legislature further finds that the safe routes to
9 school program itself is no longer working, as federal funding
10 has stalled, state funding has been separated from the program,
11 and engagement with community stakeholders has slowed.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to re-prioritize
13 the safety of keiki and kupuna by fixing and simplifying the
14 safe routes to school program, establishing a program that
15 includes safe routes for all people, re-engaging community
16 stakeholders, and appropriating a meaningful \$50,000,000 to move
17 priority projects and save lives, by:

18 (1) Establishing within the department of transportation,
19 a safe routes for people implementation program to
20 develop strategies and facilitate transportation-
21 related projects that will ensure that keiki and



1 kupuna are able to safely walk, bike, or roll to
2 common destinations through the Vision Zero policy
3 adopted by the department of transportation and county
4 transportation departments pursuant to
5 section 286-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes; the ground
6 transportation facilities plans developed and
7 implemented by the department of transportation and
8 counties pursuant to section 264-142, Hawaii Revised
9 Statutes; and the safe routes to school program under
10 section 291C-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

11 (2) Establishing a safe routes for people implementation
12 committee to advise the State in carrying out the
13 purposes of the safe routes for people implementation
14 program;

15 (3) Renaming the safe routes to schools special fund to
16 the safe routes for people special fund;

17 (4) Authorizing the safe routes for people implementation
18 committee to develop an application process for
19 projects under the safe routes to school program and
20 determine awards for selected projects; and



1 (5) Appropriating \$50,000,000 for priority projects that
2 will improve bicyclist and pedestrian safety and allow
3 keiki and kupuna to safely walk, bike, or roll to
4 common destinations.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 **§286-A Safe routes for people implementation program;**
9 **establishment.** There is established within the department for
10 administrative purposes only, a safe routes for people
11 implementation program to develop strategies and facilitate
12 transportation-related projects that will ensure that keiki and
13 kupuna are able to safely walk, bike, or roll to common
14 destinations through the Vision Zero policy adopted by the
15 department and county transportation departments pursuant to
16 section 286-7.5, ground transportation facilities plans
17 developed and implemented by the department and counties
18 pursuant to section 264-142, and projects authorized under the
19 safe routes to school program pursuant to section 291C-3.

20 **§286-B Safe routes for people implementation committee.**
21 (a) There is established within the department for



1 administrative purposes only, a safe routes for people
2 implementation committee to advise the State in carrying out the
3 purposes of the safe routes for people implementation program.
4 Specifically, the safe routes for people implementation
5 committee shall:

6 (1) Develop recommendations for any additional metrics or
7 benchmarks to ensure progress toward improving keiki
8 and kupuna safety by achieving the department's policy
9 goals and plans adopted and implemented pursuant to
10 sections 286-7.5 and 264-142;

11 (2) Develop recommendations for federal and other grant
12 funding opportunities that may help achieve the
13 department's policy goals and plans adopted and
14 implemented pursuant to sections 286-7.5 and 264-142;

15 (3) Develop recommendations to facilitate efforts by
16 communities to apply for and receive projects pursuant
17 to sections 286-7.5, 264-142, and 291C-3, and
18 streamline project development and implementation
19 between communities and the department;

20 (4) Review project proposals and select priority projects
21 pursuant to sections 286-7.5, 264-142, and 291C-3 to



1 be funded through the safe routes for people
2 implementation program or otherwise be prioritized and
3 implemented by the department; and

4 (5) Submit annual reports on the activities and
5 recommendations of the safe routes for people
6 implementation program to the governor and legislature
7 no later than December 31 of each year.

8 (b) The safe routes for people implementation committee
9 shall consist of the following members:

10 (1) The chairs of the house of representatives standing
11 committee and the senate standing committee having
12 primary jurisdiction over transportation, who shall
13 serve as co-chairs;

14 (2) The deputy director of the department's highways
15 division;

16 (3) The department's safe routes to school program
17 coordinator;

18 (4) One member representing the physical activity and
19 nutrition section of the department of health's
20 chronic disease prevention and health promotion
21 division;



- 1 (5) One member representing the department of education;
- 2 (6) The chair of the Hawaii climate change mitigation and
- 3 adaptation commission;
- 4 (7) One member representing the Hawaii state energy
- 5 office;
- 6 (8) One member representing the Hawaii state council on
- 7 developmental disabilities;
- 8 (9) One member representing each county department of
- 9 transportation;
- 10 (10) One member representing an organization having a focus
- 11 on bicycling, who shall be invited to participate;
- 12 (11) One member representing an organization having a focus
- 13 on senior citizens, who shall be invited to
- 14 participate;
- 15 (12) One member representing an organization that
- 16 understands the ways in which families with young
- 17 children traverse the State, who shall be invited to
- 18 participate;
- 19 (13) One member representing an organization having a focus
- 20 on public health and mobility, who shall be invited to
- 21 participate;



1 (14) One member representing an organization having a focus
2 on transportation equity and mobility, who shall be
3 invited to participate; and

4 (15) One member representing the Hawaii Association for
5 Independent Schools, who shall be invited to
6 participate.

7 In addition to the members listed in this subsection, the
8 co-chairs of the committee may request the participation or
9 input of members of the public; experts in a related field;
10 county, state, or federal officials; or others as necessary.

11 (c) The members of the safe routes for people
12 implementation committee shall be nominated and, by and with the
13 advice and consent of the senate, appointed by the governor to
14 serve for a term of three years each. Except as provided in
15 this section, the appointment, tenure, and removal of the
16 members and the filling of vacancies on the committee shall be
17 as provided in section 26-34.

18 (d) Members of the safe routes for people implementation
19 committee shall serve without compensation but shall be
20 reimbursed for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary
21 for the performance of their duties.



1 (e) No member of the safe routes for people implementation
2 committee shall be subject to chapter 84, solely because of the
3 member's service on the committee.

4 (f) As used in this section, "department" means the
5 department of transportation."

6 SECTION 3. Section 291-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

8 "(b) The person shall pay the surcharge to the clerk of
9 the court. The surcharge shall be deposited with the director
10 of finance who shall credit the surcharge to the safe routes [~~to~~
11 ~~school program~~] for people special fund established under
12 section 291C-4."

13 SECTION 4. Section 291C-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "~~§291C-3 State [and county] safe routes to school~~
16 ~~[programs,]~~ program; coordinators; grants; reports. (a) There
17 is established, within the department of transportation, a safe
18 routes to school program that [~~shall~~], among other things, shall
19 enhance traffic safety around Hawaii's schools, enable and
20 encourage children to walk and bicycle to school, and make



1 bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing
2 transportation alternative.

3 (b) There is created, within the department of
4 transportation, the position of safe routes to school program
5 coordinator. The safe routes to school program coordinator
6 shall provide a central point of contact for the federal safe
7 routes to school program.

8 (c) [~~A county designated office, through the county safe~~
9 ~~routes to school program coordinator, and in consultation with~~
10 ~~the department of education, department of health, and Hawaii~~
11 ~~Association of Independent Schools, shall provide safe routes to~~
12 ~~school funds]~~ The safe routes for people implementation
13 committee shall develop recommendations for school-based and
14 community-based workshops and review project proposals and
15 select priority infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects
16 that will reduce vehicular traffic and congestion, encourage
17 walking and bicycling, and promote health and safety around
18 Hawaii's schools.

19 (d) The [~~legislature shall appropriate]~~ department of
20 transportation, in conjunction with the safe routes for people
21 implementation committee, shall expend funds from the safe



1 routes [~~to school program~~] for people special fund [~~to the~~
2 ~~counties~~] to be used for the implementation of [~~county~~] safe
3 routes to school program projects[~~. No later than twenty days~~
4 ~~prior to the convening of each regular session, each county~~
5 ~~shall submit to the legislature an annual report on the status~~
6 ~~and progress of its county safe routes to school program,~~
7 ~~including an accounting of all grants provided through the~~
8 ~~program and a timeline for future grant awards.] and projects
9 pursuant to section 286-B(a)(3) and (4).~~

10 (e) Implementation of the [~~county~~] safe routes to school
11 program shall take into consideration the need to:

12 [~~(1) Fill a permanent, full time position of safe routes to~~
13 ~~school coordinator within the county designated~~
14 ~~office;~~

15 ~~(2)]~~ (1) Maximize the participation of school officials
16 and stakeholder groups in the community;

17 [~~(3)]~~ (2) Work in conjunction with county designated safe
18 routes to school stakeholders and train volunteer
19 facilitators for school-based workshops and
20 community-based projects, including flexible training
21 schedules;



1 ~~[(4)]~~ (3) Train potential grant requestors and stakeholder
2 groups in federal and state requirements necessary for
3 procurement, contracts, design, and construction; and

4 ~~[(5)]~~ (4) Allocate not less than ten per cent and not more
5 than thirty per cent of safe routes ~~[to school]~~ for
6 people funds for non-infrastructure-related activities
7 or activities to encourage walking and bicycling to
8 school, public awareness campaigns, student sessions
9 on bicycle and pedestrian safety, or other
10 non-infrastructure activities as prescribed under
11 section 1404 of the 2005 Safe, Accountable,
12 Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A
13 Legacy for Users, Public Law No. 109-59.

14 ~~[(f)] Each grant proposal in the county safe routes to~~
15 ~~school program shall:~~

16 ~~(1) Identify the modes of travel used by students to get~~
17 ~~to school;~~

18 ~~(2) Determine the number of students using each mode of~~
19 ~~travel;~~

20 ~~(3) Survey the parents of each student to gather~~
21 ~~information regarding the factors involved in the~~



1 ~~choice of transportation mode for the student and,~~
2 ~~where the student travels by automobile or bus,~~
3 ~~conditions that would need to change for the parent to~~
4 ~~permit the student to walk or ride a bicycle to~~
5 ~~school, and obstacles to walking and biking; and~~

6 ~~(4) Identify traffic infrastructure elements in the~~
7 ~~immediate vicinity of each school, including multi-~~
8 ~~lane roadways, speed limits, and traffic calming~~
9 ~~features that, either by their presence or absence,~~
10 ~~contribute to the use of automobiles as a student's~~
11 ~~mode of travel to school.~~

12 ~~(g)]~~ (f) The ~~[director of transportation,]~~ safe routes for
13 people implementation committee, in consultation with
14 organizations that have received non-infrastructure and pending
15 infrastructure grants, shall develop a streamlined process for
16 the safe routes to school program that meets federal and state
17 requirements, simplifies the grant proposal application process,
18 and expedites release of funding after completion of
19 school-based and community-based projects for infrastructure and
20 non-infrastructure.



1 ~~[(h) The director of transportation shall submit to the~~
2 ~~legislature an annual report of the status and progress of the~~
3 ~~safe routes to school program, including an accounting of all~~
4 ~~grants provided through the program and a timeline for future~~
5 ~~grant awards, no later than twenty days prior to the convening~~
6 ~~of each regular session.~~

7 ~~(i)]~~ (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed as
8 requiring actions or omissions that would render the State
9 ineligible to receive funds for the safe routes to school
10 program under the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible,
11 Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, Public
12 Law No. 109-59."

13 SECTION 5. Section 291C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§291C-4 Safe routes [to school program] for people**
16 **special fund; establishment.** (a) There is established in the
17 state treasury the safe routes [to school program] for people
18 special fund, into which shall be deposited:

19 (1) Legislative appropriations and federal or private
20 grants, gifts, and donations awarded or made to the



1 safe routes for people implementation program for
2 deposit into the fund;

3 (2) Interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in the
4 fund;

5 ~~[(1)]~~ (3) Assessments collected for speeding in a school
6 zone, pursuant to section 291C-104; and

7 ~~[(2)]~~ (4) Safe routes to school program surcharges
8 collected in accordance with sections 291-16 and
9 291C-5.

10 (b) The moneys in the special fund shall be administered
11 and expended by the department of transportation, in conjunction
12 with the safe routes for people implementation committee, to:

13 (1) Fund projects selected and approved by the safe routes
14 for people implementation committee pursuant to
15 section 286-B;

16 (2) Be distributed to the counties for the implementation
17 of projects selected and approved by the safe routes
18 for people implementation committee; provided that the
19 department of transportation may require matching
20 funds from a respective county based on the nature and
21 funding requirements of the proposed project; and



1 (3) Fund projects selected and approved by the safe routes
2 for people implementation committee under the safe
3 routes to school program pursuant to section 291C-3.

4 (c) The department of transportation shall submit an
5 annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
6 to the convening of each regular session that outlines the
7 receipts of, and expenditures from, the special fund. This
8 report shall include the status and progress of projects, an
9 accounting of all grants provided for projects, and a timeline
10 for future grant awards."

11 SECTION 6. Section 291C-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

13 "(b) The person shall pay the surcharge to the clerk of
14 the court. The surcharge shall be deposited with the director
15 of finance who shall transmit the surcharge to the safe routes
16 [~~to school program~~] for people special fund established under
17 section 291C-4."

18 SECTION 7. Section 291C-104, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

20 "(c) Any person who violates this section shall be fined
21 \$250, may be charged with a surcharge of up to \$100 to be



1 deposited into the trauma system special fund, and, where the
2 violation involves speeding in a school zone, shall be charged
3 with a surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the safe routes [~~to~~
4 ~~school program~~] for people special fund."

5 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000,000 or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
9 year 2024-2025 to fund priority projects identified by the safe
10 routes for people implementation committee to improve bicyclist
11 and pedestrian safety and allow keiki and kupuna to safely walk,
12 bike, or roll to common destinations.

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

15 SECTION 9. In codifying the new sections added by
16 section 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
17 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
18 the new sections in this Act.

19 SECTION 10. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 11. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Department of Transportation; Traffic Safety; Keiki and Kupuna; Safe Routes to School Program; Safe Routes for People Implementation Program; Safe Routes for People Implementation Committee; Safe Routes for People Special Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a safe routes for people implementation program and safe routes for people implementation committee to develop strategies and facilitate transportation-related projects that ensure the safety of keiki and kupuna using ground transportation facilities. Authorizes the safe routes for people implementation committee to develop the application process under the safe routes to school program. Renames the safe routes to school program special fund to the safe routes for people special fund and amends its purpose. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

