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# 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 in 2011, Honolulu  
2 earned the dubious distinction of having the worst vehicular  
3 traffic of any city in America. The severity of the State's  
4 traffic jams, combined with the human error inherent in  
5 operating conventional motor vehicles, has been nothing but  
6 deadly: according to the National Highway Traffic Safety  
7 Administration, there were one hundred nine traffic fatalities  
8 in the State in 2009. The legislature also finds that human  
9 error accounts for up to ninety-five per cent of vehicular  
10 collisions, and that according to the Centers for Disease  
11 Control, crash-related death costs in Hawaii are approximately  
12 \$124,000,000 each year.

13           The legislature further finds that in light of these grim  
14 statistics, modern alternatives must be explored. One such  
15 alternative has been gaining consideration in other states,  
16 including California, Florida, and Nevada: the use of autonomous  
17 or "driverless" motor vehicles, which can potentially save lives



1 and reduce commuting times. The Institute of Electrical and  
2 Electronics Engineers predicts that seventy-five per cent of  
3 vehicles will be "driverless" by 2040. It would therefore  
4 benefit our state to prepare for inevitable technological  
5 advances and authorize, for testing purposes, the operation of  
6 autonomous vehicles.

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

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

12 **"PART . AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES**

13 **§286-A Authorization.** The director shall authorize, no  
14 later than January 1, 2015, the development of an autonomous  
15 vehicle testing program, to be administered by the department of  
16 transportation.

17 **§286-B Application and approval process.** The department  
18 shall establish, no later than January 1, 2016, an application  
19 and approval process by which autonomous vehicle manufacturers  
20 and other interested parties may seek to test autonomous



1 vehicles in the State. Prior to granting any approval for  
2 testing, the department shall require, at a minimum,  
3 satisfactory evidence of the following:

- 4 (a) The applicant's safety record;
- 5 (b) The applicant's insured or bonded status;
- 6 (c) The autonomous vehicle's safety features, including  
7 the presence of a manual override feature; and
- 8 (d) The ease with which the autonomous vehicle's operator  
9 can activate and deactivate the autonomous technology.

10 **§286-C Fees.** The department may assess any fees necessary  
11 to cover the costs of application processing and program  
12 administration.

13 **§286-D Rules.** The department shall adopt rules under  
14 chapter 91 to implement this part.

15 **§286-E Penalties.** The department shall establish  
16 administrative penalties for noncompliance with the requirements  
17 of this part or with rules adopted pursuant to chapter 91.

18 **§286-F Reports to the legislature.** (a) No later than  
19 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session, and  
20 beginning with the regular session of 2017, the director shall  
21 submit a report to the legislature that addresses the following:

- 22 (1) The feasibility and safety implications of authorizing



- 1           the operation of autonomous vehicles beyond the  
2           testing phase;
- 3           (2) The adoption or amendment of relevant administrative  
4           rules issued pursuant to this part;
- 5           (3) Any additional legislative action that may be required  
6           for the safe testing and operation of autonomous  
7           vehicles; and
- 8           (4) Detailed information on the autonomous vehicle  
9           manufacturers and other interested parties who  
10          submitted applications pursuant to section 286-B  
11          during the preceding twelve-month period."

12          SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$            or so much  
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 and the  
15 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
16 2015-2016 for the establishment of the autonomous vehicle  
17 testing program and any associated costs.

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

20          SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by section  
21 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute



1 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
2 the new sections in this Act.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 22 2014



**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.*

