

Nearly 5% of interstate highways in Hawaii are in poor condition, Transportation Department reports

The interstates are H-1, H-2 and H-3 freeways on Oahu.

By Nicole Tam



Hawaii has the bumpiest interstate highways in the nation, that's according to a [new report published by a transportation research non-profit](#). It revealed 23 percent of the state's freeways are in poor condition.

State Department of Transportation Deputy Director for Highways Ed Sniffen says there's more to the numbers. Sniffen says the national analysis only looked at what's called ridability, that's how smooth the road is.

The interstates are H-1, H-2 and H-3 freeways on Oahu.

Sniffen admits some parts are a bumpy ride but based on his department's yearly evaluation to the feds that looks at safety factors like cracking, rutting and faulting, only five percent of lanes are in poor condition. He also says having smooth and safe roads is costly.

"It would take all our money and we wouldn't have any to use for safety or ensuring the route is going to be safe or dependable for long term," Sniffen said.

In the department's yearly report, nearly 18 percent of lanes are in good condition, 78 percent fair and 5 percent below expectation. The state receives around \$180 million of federal funding per year for all state and interstate highways.

Sniffen says priority improvement projects go to areas that pose potential safety concerns.

"Make sure we can reconstruct it so we don't have to worry about them for the next couple of decades," Sniffen said.

If there's more than five percent of interstate lanes in poor condition, Sniffen says the feds would force the state to allocate \$12 million from its budget to paving projects.