
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES ARMY, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO EXPAND, PLAN, AND COORDINATE WORK RELATED TO USING KOLEKOLE PASS AS AN EXPANDED EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTE.

1 WHEREAS, Kolekole Pass, a historically significant and
2 strategically located corridor through the Waiʻanae mountain
3 range in Nānākuli has long been recognized as a potential
4 emergency evacuation route connecting the Leeward Coast to
5 Central Oahu;
6 and
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8 WHEREAS, Kolekole Pass has been used historically for
9 military operations and has played an important role in Hawaii's
10 history, including serving as a critical route for military and
11 emergency access; and
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13 WHEREAS, recent natural disasters, including the fires on
14 Maui, have underscored the necessity of maintaining alternative
15 evacuation routes to ensure the safety of residents in
16 vulnerable communities; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Westside of Oʻahu faces limited road access,
19 with Farrington Highway serving as the primary roadway for
20 thousands of residents, leaving communities vulnerable to
21 dangerous gridlocks during emergencies; and
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23 WHEREAS, the military has conducted multiple exercises in
24 coordination with federal, state, and county agencies to
25 evaluate the feasibility of Kolekole Pass as an emergency
26 evacuation route, including full-scale exercises in February
27 2025, that tested its viability for civilian use; and
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1 WHEREAS, recent discussions between military and civilian
2 leadership have indicated a willingness to consider Kolekole
3 Pass for public use in emergency situations; provided
4 appropriate planning, maintenance, and coordination are in
5 place; and
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7 WHEREAS, the coordination of multiple federal, state, and
8 county agencies is necessary to implement infrastructure
9 improvements and establish protocols for civilian use of
10 Kolekole Pass in emergencies; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
13 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
14 of 2025, that the United States Department of Defense, United
15 States Army, United States Navy, and State Department of
16 Transportation are requested to work with appropriate state and
17 county departments and agencies to expand, plan, and coordinate
18 work to prepare and secure Kolekole Pass as an expanded
19 emergency exit route for residents on the Westside of O'ahu in
20 the event of dangerous gridlocks, natural disasters, or
21 unforeseen catastrophic emergencies; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
25 Defense, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations,
26 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, Governor, Director
27 of Transportation, and Administrator of Emergency Management for
28 the City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 07 2025

