

---

---

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REPORT TO THE  
LEGISLATURE ON THE COSTS OF, AND THE SAFETY ISSUES RELATED  
TO TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUTS.

1           WHEREAS, a roundabout is a type of road junction at which  
2 traffic streams around a central island, after first yielding to  
3 the circulating traffic; and

4  
5           WHEREAS, roundabouts are statistically safer than both  
6 large traffic circles and traditional intersections; and

7  
8           WHEREAS, roundabouts operate with yield control to give  
9 priority to circulating traffic and eliminate much of the driver  
10 confusion associated with large traffic circles and driver wait-  
11 time associated with junctions that have traffic lights; and

12  
13           WHEREAS, roundabouts separate incoming and outgoing traffic  
14 with pedestrian islands and therefore encourage slower and safer  
15 speeds; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, statistically, roundabouts are considered to be  
18 safer than both traffic circles and traditional intersections,  
19 having forty per cent fewer vehicle collisions, eighty per cent  
20 fewer injuries, and ninety per cent fewer serious injuries and  
21 fatalities; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, roundabouts also reduce points of conflict between  
24 pedestrians and motor vehicles and are therefore considered to  
25 be safer for pedestrians; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, however, there are substantial safety concerns for  
28 bicyclists as research recommends terminating bicycle lanes well  
29 before the entrances of a roundabout, so bicyclists can merge  
30 into the stream of motor traffic; and

31



# H.C.R. NO. 300

1           WHEREAS, additionally, if adjacent cross-walks are not  
2 properly designed, there are serious risks for persons with  
3 visual impairments; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, this has led to a conflict in certain areas of the  
6 United States between the visually impaired and civil  
7 engineering communities; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, roundabouts are considered not to be suitable for  
10 freeways; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, for junctions with a high traffic volume they are  
13 not suitable because congested traffic in one direction would  
14 quickly block a roundabout and impair traffic in all other  
15 directions; and  
16

17           WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that an objective, reasoned  
18 examination of issues by knowledgeable traffic engineers and  
19 safety personnel relating to the costs and safety aspects of  
20 roundabouts would assist its members in resolving this matter;  
21 now, therefore,  
22

23           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
26 Transportation is requested to report to the Legislature on the  
27 costs of and the safety issues related to traffic roundabouts;  
28 and  
29

30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
31 Transportation is requested to include in the study the  
32 following:  
33

34           (1) The costs of building a roundabout and the costs of  
35 implementing the widespread use of roundabouts in  
36 Hawaii;  
37

38           (2) Comparing the costs of a roundabout with currently  
39 used traffic guidance systems, such as an  
40 intersection;  
41

42           (3) The safety of all parties involved in the use of  
43 traffic roundabouts, such as motorists, motorcycle  
44 riders, moped drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists;



# H.C.R. NO. 300

- 1
- 2 (4) How to implement roundabouts into the traffic guidance
- 3 system without endangering the visually impaired and
- 4 bicyclists; and
- 5
- 6 (5) Any additional issues and concerns that the Department
- 7 of Transportation sees arising by the use of
- 8 roundabouts; and
- 9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
 11 Transportation is requested to submit a report to the  
 12 Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including  
 13 suggested legislation, not later than twenty days before the  
 14 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

15  
 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the  
 18 Director of Transportation.

19  
 20  
 21

OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*  
*St. Neenan*  
*Marilyn B. Lee*  
*Cindy Evans*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

MAR 14 2007

