HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017 STATE OF HAWAII

H.C.R. NO. 191

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE THE WAIANAE COAST EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD SYSTEM AND WHETHER THESE ROADS CAN BE USED AS A SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD TO THE WAIANAE COAST ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

WHEREAS, Farrington Highway is the main route of travel for
communities of the Leeward Coast of Oahu and is the only public
highway that leads into and out of the region; and

5 WHEREAS, as the population along the Leeward Coast 6 continues to increase, and with only one route into and out of 7 the area, traffic conditions continue to worsen and frustrated 8 Leeward motorists are caught in gridlock traffic conditions on a 9 daily basis; and

11 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway has experienced lane closures 12 or complete shutdowns on numerous occasions due to traffic 13 accidents, severe weather, and other emergency conditions; and 14

WHEREAS, for over a decade, numerous proposals to find a 15 solution to the foregoing problem have been made, including the 16 construction of a secondary access road into the Waianae area 17 parallel to Farrington Highway, the development of an emergency 18 access route into and out of the Waianae area using existing 19 20 infrastructure, increasing the capacity of Farrington Highway, and construction of a mauka roadway through the Waianae mountain 21 range to connect the Leeward Coast with Central Oahu; and 22 23

24 WHEREAS, despite these proposals, no permanent solution has 25 been initiated; and



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H.C.R. NO. 197

WHEREAS, in a coordinated effort between numerous 1 2 departments and agencies, plans have been put in place to use 3 existing roads as an emergency access and bypass route into the 4 Waianae area during emergency highway closures or other 5 emergency situations; and 6 WHEREAS, accordingly, the system of roads, known as the 7 8 Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System (WCEAR), consists of 9 gated roads that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu that can 10 be opened when it is deemed necessary or when requested by the 11 12 Honolulu Police Department; and 13 WHEREAS, while use of WCEAR has provided needed relief 14 during recent emergency situations, issues regarding the timely 15 opening of these roads still remain, including the necessity of 16 having the gates to the roads unlocked by an individual from the 17 18 Department of Emergency Management; and 19 20 WHEREAS, questions remain as to the actual ownership and jurisdiction of the WCEAR System roads and whether WCEAR System 21 22 road conditions meet current road building standards; and 23 24 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there is a critical need for an alternate route to the Waianae Coast to alleviate 25 26 aforestated circumstances; now, therefore, 27 28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session 29 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of 30 31 Transportation, in conjunction with the Department of 32 Transportation Services and Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu, and the Honolulu Police 33 34 Department, is urged to conduct an analysis of roads in the Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System to: 35 36 37 (1) Determine the logistical challenges of opening WCEAR 38 System roads on a permanent basis; 39 40 (2) Review and consider the jurisdictional issues that need to be addressed to allow the use of WCEAR System 41 42 roads on a permanent basis;



2

H.C.R. NO. 197

Determine any improvements necessary to bring WCEAR 1 (3) System roads in line with current road building 2 3 standards, including cost estimates for the improvements; 4 5 (4)Determine the overall benefits of and the actions 6 necessary to effectuate the opening of WCEAR System 7 roads only during peak traffic times versus 8 permanently opening these roads, including effects in 9 reducing travel times; and 10 11 12 (5) Consider any other pertinent issues that may be involved in the use of WCEAR System roads as an 13 alternative means of access to and from the Leeward 14 Coast; and 15 16 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation submit a report of its findings and 18 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 19 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 20 Regular Session of 2018; and 21 22 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of 24 Transportation, Director of the Department of Transportation 25 Services of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the 26 27 Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu, and Acting Honolulu Police Chief. 28 29 30 31 OFFERED BY:



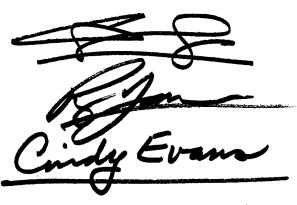
H.C.R. NO. 197



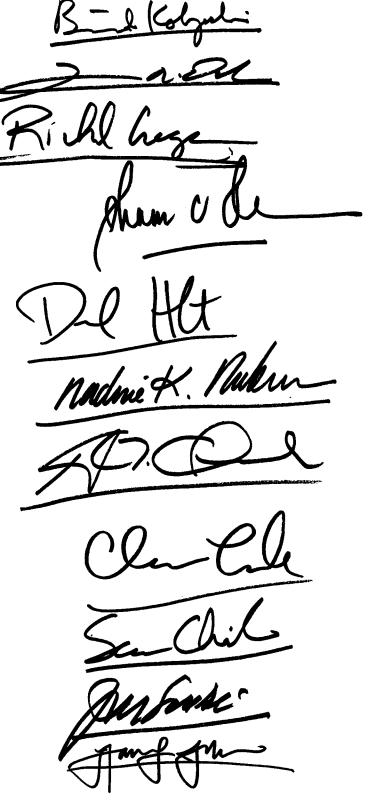












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