
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAYS DIVISION, AND HAWAII COUNTY TO
COLLECTIVELY DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPROVE MEALANI ROAD AND
ESTABLISH A PROTOCOL TO USE MEALANI ROAD AS AN EMERGENCY
BYPASS ROUTE WHEN MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY IS INACCESSIBLE.

1 WHEREAS, maintaining road access during disasters and
2 emergency road closures is of critical importance for public
3 safety; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Mamalahoa Highway is the only road that provides
6 entry and exit from the east side of the town of Waimea in
7 Hawaii County; and
8

9 WHEREAS, closures of Mamalahoa Highway have caused
10 significant problems for residents and commuters trying to
11 access school, work, church, the post office, stores, and their
12 homes; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Mealani Road is an unimproved road under the
15 jurisdiction of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands that is
16 the only existing potential emergency bypass route during times
17 when Mamalahoa Highway is blocked on the east side of Waimea;
18 and
19

20 WHEREAS, Mealani Road is privately owned by the Department
21 of Hawaiian Home Lands and currently requires approval by the
22 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for use by individuals or
23 entities other than homestead residents; and
24

25 WHEREAS, the establishment of Mealani Road as an emergency
26 bypass route requires collaboration between the Department of
27 Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation Highways
28 Division, and Hawaii County to provide access and public safety
29 during use of this single-lane road; and
30



1 WHEREAS, previously, collaboration between the Department
2 of Hawaiian Home Lands and Hawaii County led to the successful
3 completion of improvements to Kahilu Road for emergency access
4 in Waimea; and

5
6 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to improve Mealani
7 Road and establish a protocol for the use of Mealani Road as an
8 emergency bypass route; now, therefore,

9
10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
12 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation
13 Highways Division, and Hawaii County, including the Hawaii
14 County Department of Public Works, Hawaii County Civil Defense
15 Agency, Hawaii Police Department, and Hawaii Fire Department,
16 are urged to collectively develop a plan to improve Mealani Road
17 and establish a protocol to use Mealani Road as an emergency
18 bypass route when Mamalahoa Highway is inaccessible; and

19
20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
21 Lands, Department of Transportation Highways Division, and
22 Hawaii County, including the Hawaii County Department of Public
23 Works, Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, Hawaii Police
24 Department, and Hawaii Fire Department, are requested to submit
25 to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the
26 convening of the Regular Session of 2021, a report describing
27 their plan to improve Mealani Road and to establish a protocol
28 to use Mealani Road as an emergency bypass route when Mamalahoa
29 Highway is inaccessible; and

30
31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
33 Homes Commission, Director of Transportation, Deputy Director
34 for Highways of the Department of Transportation, Mayor of
35 Hawaii County, Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council,
36 Director of the Hawaii County Department of Public Works, Hawaii
37 County Civil Defense Administrator, Hawaii County Police Chief,
38 and Hawaii County Fire Chief.

