
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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



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1 Division, and Hawaii County to provide access and public safety
2 during use of this single-lane road; and

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

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9 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to improve Mealani
10 Road and establish a protocol for the use of Mealani Road as an
11 emergency bypass route; now, therefore,

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

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

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



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OFFERED BY: David Barnes

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