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# HOUSE 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  
28 Division, and Hawaii County to provide access and public safety  
29 during use of this single-lane road; and



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

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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,

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

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

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

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OFFERED BY:

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MAR 04 2020

