

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK
FORCE TO EXPLORE CERTAIN TOPICS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF
THE METRIC SYSTEM IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that strong reasons exist
2 for Hawai'i and other states to switch to the metric system, also
3 known as the International System of Units or SI; and
4

5 WHEREAS, using its customary system of inches, feet,
6 ounces, and pounds, the United States is an outlier regarding
7 measurement standards; and
8

9 WHEREAS, only two other countries - Burma and Liberia - do
10 not utilize the metric system as their predominant means of
11 measurement; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the metric system is the language of science,
14 medicine, international commerce, and most sports; and
15

16 WHEREAS, learning two measurement systems is time-
17 consuming, confusing, and can result in costly and dangerous
18 conversion errors; and
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20 WHEREAS, the costs of not utilizing the metric system are
21 quickly increasing with the trend toward globalization; and
22

23 WHEREAS, not conforming to the global standards of
24 measurement could result in the United States losing its
25 competitive edge in science and technology and continue to be a
26 bilateral trade impediment with other countries; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the economic benefits of global interoperability
29 greatly outweigh the challenges of converting to the metric
30 system; and
31

32 WHEREAS, product design, manufacturing, marketing, and
33 labeling are all made more difficult by having to convert
34 measurements from one system to another; and
35



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1 WHEREAS, switching to the metric system could result in the
2 creation of many jobs and enable the current and future
3 workforce of the United States to be more prepared to compete in
4 the international marketplace; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
7 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
8 Department of Transportation is requested to establish a task
9 force to examine certain topics associated with the use of the
10 metric system in Hawai'i, such as:

- 11 (1) Exploring the use of the metric system for distance
12 and speed measurements on public signs; and
- 13 (2) Evaluating whether any problems have occurred for
14 tourists from metric system-based countries; and
15 (2) Evaluating whether any problems have occurred for
16 tourists from metric system-based countries; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of
19 the following members:

- 20 (1) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
21 designee, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the
22 task force;
23 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
24 Tourism or the Director's designee;
25 (3) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
26 Hawaii Tourism Authority or the President and Chief
27 Executive Officer's designee;
28 (4) The Administrator of the Quality Assurance Division of
29 the Department of Agriculture or the Administrator's
30 designee;
31 (5) A member of the Senate, to be designated by the
32 President of the Senate; and
33 (6) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
34 designated by the Speaker of the House of
35 Representatives; and
36 (5) A member of the Senate, to be designated by the
37 President of the Senate; and
38 (6) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
39 designated by the Speaker of the House of
40 Representatives; and
41 (6) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
42 designated by the Speaker of the House of
 Representatives; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members may
 2 recommend additional members with relevant expertise to the task
 3 force, with the approval of the chairperson; and

4
 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 6 Transportation shall provide administrative and clerical support
 7 required by the task force; and

8
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a
 10 report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations,
 11 including proposed legislation, no later than sixty days prior
 12 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

13
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 15 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation;
 16 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
 17 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism
 18 Authority; and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:

Karl Abroad

[Signature]

Rosalyn H Baker

[Signature]

