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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INITIATE THREE  
INNOVATIVE PILOT PROJECTS OF MEANINGFUL SCALE TO MODERNIZE  
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

1           WHEREAS, utilizing public transportation, biking, walking,  
2 and living close to work or school instead of owning or leasing  
3 a car can significantly reduce the cost of transportation, cost  
4 of living, and measurably improve public health; and  
5

6           WHEREAS, many underserved communities in Hawaii have no  
7 safe biking or walking transportation infrastructure, leaving  
8 residents forced to pay a higher cost of transportation to own a  
9 car, even when they live close to work or school, with fewer  
10 options to improve their quality of life; and  
11

12           WHEREAS, the way people use transportation in the State is  
13 already rapidly changing, for example the number of licensed  
14 drivers in the State between the ages of fifteen and nineteen  
15 has plummeted nearly forty percent in the last twenty-five  
16 years, and electric bicycles have made longer distance bicycle  
17 commuting more popular; and  
18

19           WHEREAS, these changes are due, in part, to increased cost  
20 of living and transportation expenses such as buying or leasing  
21 a car, which also includes auto insurance premiums, fuel costs,  
22 and vehicle maintenance, which make owning a car an expensive  
23 means of transportation as reflected in a recent report by the  
24 American Automobile Association who noted that, on average,  
25 these additional expenses cost each car owner \$8,849 per year;  
26 and  
27

28           WHEREAS, in the State and around the country, inequitable  
29 investments into infrastructure over many decades has  
30 exacerbated cost and health disparities among different  
31 communities, with low-income areas typically having less access  
32 to bike lanes, sidewalks, and safe forms of cheaper



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1 transportation, leaving low-income households in auto-centric  
2 communities more likely to fall into poverty; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, one direct outcome of this problem is that drivers  
5 are more likely to strike and kill pedestrians in low-income  
6 neighborhoods than in high-income neighborhoods due to a lack of  
7 safe walking and biking infrastructure; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, Hawaii should modernize ground transportation  
10 infrastructure by incorporating safer, protected, walking and  
11 biking infrastructure, moving away from auto-centric policies,  
12 and address infrastructure inequalities in underserved  
13 communities to help reduce the cost of living, improve the  
14 quality of life for local residents, and stimulate the economy;  
15 now, therefore,

16  
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
18 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
19 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
20 Transportation is requested to prioritize and execute three  
21 pilot projects of meaningful scale demonstrating innovative new  
22 ways to improve safety, reduce the cost of transportation for  
23 local residents, and improve quality of life in underserved  
24 communities, with a particular focus on those that may include  
25 public housing or Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
26 beneficiaries; and

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
29 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will  
30 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce  
31 transportation costs between an area of current or future high  
32 density and the downtown urban core, providing a protected  
33 highway for bicycle and pedestrian commuters without  
34 intersecting vehicular traffic or other impediments, similar to  
35 the safe and direct commutes made possible by the New York City  
36 High Line for pedestrians, or the Xiamen Bicycle Skyway for  
37 bicycle commuters; and

38  
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
40 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will  
41 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce  
42 transportation costs for students commuting to school, providing



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1 protected bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools focusing on  
2 an area that serves as many schools as possible, and may partner  
3 with a county in doing so; and  
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
6 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will  
7 maximize safe and protected active health exercise pathways  
8 serving a high-density area, and may partner with a county in  
9 doing so; and  
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and  
13 Director of Transportation.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



MAR 12 2021

