
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MAYOR OF THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TO REROUTE
FARRINGTON HIGHWAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1998 MAKAHA BEACH
PARK MASTER PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, Makaha Beach Park used to be the home of sand
2 dunes, which were relocated to provide sand to Kaiser, Sand
3 Island, and other beach parks in Honolulu; and
4

5 WHEREAS, international surfing champions from Makaha Beach
6 Park include Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana, the "Queen of Makaha"
7 Rell Sunn, Sunny Garcia, Rusty Keaulana, Duane DeSoto, and many
8 others; and
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10 WHEREAS, Makaha Beach Park on Oahu's leeward coast is a
11 favorite spot for locals and visitors, and is home to iconic
12 surfing competitions including Buffalo's Big Board Surfing
13 Classic, Rell Sunn's Menehune Surf Meet, Braddah Mel's
14 Waterman's Championships, and Keiki Surf Kontest, among many
15 others; and
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17 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Department of
18 Parks and Recreation annually lists Makaha Beach Park as one of
19 the top-ten most visited parks on Oahu; and
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21 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway parallels the shoreline and
22 splits Makaha Beach Park into two halves, with the beach on the
23 makai side of the highway and restrooms, showers, a parking lot,
24 and a canoe hale on the mauka side of the highway; and
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26 WHEREAS, because the beach park is bisected by Farrington
27 Highway, it creates unsafe conditions where beachgoers,
28 particularly small children, frequently have to cross the busy
29 highway to get to the beach; and
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1 WHEREAS, the close proximity of Farrington Highway to the
2 shoreline has resulted in serious damage to the highway from
3 storms and waves; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 1983, strong waves eroded a portion of
6 Farrington Highway, which caused the Department of
7 Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu Department of
8 Parks and Recreation to request a shore protection study from
9 the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Corps); and
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11 WHEREAS, in 1985, the Engineer Corps concluded that
12 Farrington Highway should be realigned further inland and away
13 from the shoreline to protect the highway from future wave
14 damage; and
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16 WHEREAS, subsequent to the study and recommendations from
17 the Engineer Corps, the City and County of Honolulu acquired
18 additional park properties mauka of Farrington Highway to expand
19 the beach park and lobbied the State to fund the relocation of
20 the highway further inland, which the State was unable to fund;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, in 1998 the City and County of Honolulu developed
24 a master plan for Makaha Beach Park that proposed to reroute
25 Farrington Highway further inland and away from the beach, as
26 well as expanding the beach park with new picnic areas, fields,
27 and restroom facilities; and
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29 WHEREAS, the 1998 Makaha Beach Park master plan was never
30 executed due to a lack of funds; and
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32 WHEREAS, at the urging of area residents, former City
33 Councilmember Kymberly Pine asked the Oahu Metropolitan Planning
34 Organization to authorize a feasibility study for the potential
35 mauka route realignment of Farrington Highway at Makaha Beach,
36 which the organization unanimously approved; and
37

38 WHEREAS, despite the approval for the feasibility study,
39 the study was never executed due to a lack of funds; and
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41 WHEREAS, beach erosion at Makaha Beach Park caused by
42 rising sea levels and runoff from Farrington Highway has led to
43 approval of emergency permits and measures by the Department of
44 Land and Natural Resources, including partnering with private



1 heavy equipment operators and machine owners to move sand from
2 the east end to the west end of the beach, to prevent further
3 erosion; and
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5 WHEREAS, in 2010 the City and County of Honolulu Department
6 of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Land and Natural
7 Resources' Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands commissioned
8 a study which concluded that erosion at Makaha Beach Park poses
9 a serious safety concern and, like in the 1985 Engineer Corps
10 study, recommended that Farrington Highway be realigned further
11 inland to mitigate beach erosion; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the urgency to repair the Makaha Bridge has been a
14 public safety concern for Waianae residents for many years; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway is the only transportation
17 route to travel south in the Makaha area; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Highways Division
20 has proposed to replace two existing wooden bridges along
21 Farrington Highway, Route 93, between milepost marker
22 numbers 13.95 and 14.21 in Makaha on the Waianae Coast of Oahu;
23 and
24

25 WHEREAS, Makaha Bridge No. 3 and Makaha Bridge No. 3A were
26 constructed in 1927 and currently support two eleven-foot lanes
27 with a two-foot shoulder on the makai side of the bridge and a
28 one-foot shoulder on the mauka side; and
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30 WHEREAS, both bridges have been classified by the
31 Department of Transportation as deficient and require
32 replacement; and
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34 WHEREAS, to meet existing roadway design requirements, the
35 proposed project will require additional areas beyond the
36 existing right-of-way to accommodate the increased bridge spans
37 and structures necessary for embankment protection, channel
38 widening, and guardrail improvements; and
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40 WHEREAS, the proposed wider right-of-way will affect lands
41 on the mauka and makai sides adjacent to the project site; and
42

43 WHEREAS, the Waianae community believes placing the
44 project's temporary bypass road on the makai side of Farrington



1 Highway will cut off and strand residents and tourists west of
2 the project, should the five-year flood level standard temporary
3 roads be washed to sea by inland flooding or ocean surge; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation announced
6 preparations for the replacement of the Makaha Bridge No. 3
7 and 3A on March 8, 2021, starting with clearing the area makai
8 of the existing bridge to prepare for installation of a
9 temporary bypass; and
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11 WHEREAS, on April 1, 2021, the Department of Transportation
12 announced that they will no longer be constructing a temporary
13 bypass road and will instead repair the bridges while allowing
14 only single-lane traffic; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
19 Transportation, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and
20 Honolulu City Council are urged to reroute Farrington Highway in
21 accordance with the 1998 Makaha Beach Park Master Plan; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and County of Honolulu
24 is urged to update the 1998 Makaha Beach Master Plan; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oahu Metropolitan Planning
27 Organization is urged to keep the Farrington Highway Makaha
28 Beach Realignment Feasibility Study on their Overall Work
29 Program for fiscal year 2022; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
32 Transportation is urged to use all methods available and best
33 practices to maximize the flow of traffic during construction
34 and to avoid traffic congestion, especially on the weekends; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
38 Congressional Delegation, Governor, Director of Transportation,
39 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of
40 the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu
41 City Council, Executive Director of Oahu Metropolitan Planning
42 Organization, and Chairperson of the Waianae Neighborhood Board.

