

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING ANY PUBLIC PROJECT, PERMIT, OR APPROVAL THAT IMPROVES
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY WHILE RETAINING PUBLIC
PARKING AT LANIAKEA BEACH.

1 WHEREAS, Kamehameha Highway at Laniakea Beach has been, and
2 continues to be, a traffic choke point with pedestrians crossing
3 from the parking area to the beach that causes traffic to
4 regularly back up as much as two miles in both directions; and
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6 WHEREAS, community members have actively advocated for
7 relief from the traffic congestion and disorganized beach access
8 since at least 2005 and there have been several opportunities
9 for the State and City and County of Honolulu to work together
10 with stakeholders to resolve the parking and safety concerns;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, to ensure that the public would continue to park
14 mauka of the highway at Laniakea Beach, the City and County of
15 Honolulu used eminent domain and obtained possession of the site
16 of Laniakea Beach Support Park by a court order on August 2,
17 1999; and
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19 WHEREAS, on December 23, 2013, the Department of
20 Transportation placed concrete jersey barriers on the mauka
21 shoulder of the highway to block the public from parking on city
22 property mauka of Laniakea Beach; and
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24 WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed to restore parking for beach
25 access and on July 8, 2015, the First Circuit Court ruled that
26 the plaintiffs are likely to prevail upon the merits of the
27 dispute regarding whether the Department of Transportation can
28 maintain the traffic barriers on the park area without the
29 necessary permits and issued a preliminary injunction which
30 required the Department of Transportation to remove all jersey
31 barriers from the park area; and
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1 WHEREAS, on August 15, 2015, the Department of
2 Transportation removed the jersey barriers from the highway and
3 placed them at the back of the parking area, and then removed
4 them entirely from city property by September 27, 2019; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is presently
7 considering four alternatives: No Build Alternative, No Build
8 Settlement Alternative, Transportation System Management
9 Alternative, and Pedestrian Shift Alternative; and
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11 WHEREAS, the No Build Alternative leaves the project area
12 as is; and
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14 WHEREAS, the No Build Settlement Alternative would
15 implement the project stipulated in the settlement reached
16 between the City and County of Honolulu, Department of
17 Transportation, and the litigants; and
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19 WHEREAS, the Transportation System Management Alternative
20 would block parking on the mauka side of Kamehameha Highway with
21 a permanent guardrail, similar to what was done with jersey
22 barriers; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Pedestrian Shift Alternative would realign
25 Kamehameha Highway and allow parking between the highway and the
26 shoreline, but proposes to prohibit parking for an undetermined
27 time, possibly years, during construction; and
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29 WHEREAS, any agency permit or approval which allows closing
30 most or all public parking at Laniakea Beach for a multi-year
31 period would not comply with state coastal zone management
32 policies and would unreasonably restrict beneficial use of the
33 environment and public resources and other community cultural
34 practices; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
38 House of Representatives concurring, that this body supports any
39 public project, permit, or approval that improves pedestrian and
40 traffic safety while retaining public parking at Laniakea Beach;
41 and
42



S.C.R. NO. 197

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body opposes any public
2 project, permit, or approval which would close most or all
3 public parking at Laniakea Beach for a multi-year period; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
7 of Transportation, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
8 Resources, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson
9 of the Honolulu City Council, Director of Parks and Recreation
10 of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of Design and
11 Construction of the City and County of Honolulu, and Director of
12 Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.
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OFFERED BY:

