

MAR 12 2021

SENATE 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
33 transportation, leaving low-income households in auto-centric
34 communities more likely to fall into poverty; and
35



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

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

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

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

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
36 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
37 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce
38 transportation costs for students commuting to school, providing
39 protected bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools focusing on
40 an area that serves as many schools as possible, and may partner
41 with a county in doing so; and
42



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
2 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
3 maximize safe and protected active health exercise pathways
4 serving a high-density area, and may partner with a county in
5 doing so; and
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
8 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
9 Transportation.
10
11
12

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Olu', is written over a horizontal line.