

MAR 12 2021

---

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO ADOPT A ZERO NET VEHICLE GROWTH POLICY TO  
REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

1 WHEREAS, traffic congestion is a major issue that costs the  
2 State millions of dollars annually and negatively contributes to  
3 the health and welfare of residents; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Honolulu consistently ranks among the worst cities  
6 nationally for traffic congestion; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, the average commuter on Oahu spends sixty-four  
9 hours each year sitting in traffic congestion; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
12 and Tourism estimates the cost of traffic congestion, including  
13 time lost and the excess fuel consumed sitting in traffic, at  
14 more than \$753,000,000 annually; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, there are currently more than 1,275,000 motor  
17 vehicles registered in the State, including cars, trucks,  
18 motorcycles, and scooters; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, as of December 2019, there are only 944,159  
21 residents with a valid driver's license, which means there are  
22 approximately 330,841 more vehicles than drivers in the State;  
23 and  
24

25 WHEREAS, there are only 4,476 miles of roads, paved and  
26 unpaved, in the State; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the State spends on average \$82,000,000 annually  
29 on road repairs; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, between 1995 and 2017 Oahu added one hundred  
32 ninety miles of new roadways and during that same time period  
33 Oahu added 190,000 more registered vehicles while the population  
34 on Oahu only grew by approximately twelve percent; and  
35



1           WHEREAS, between 1993 and 2017, the nation's one hundred  
2 largest urbanized areas added 30,511 new freeway lane-miles, an  
3 increase of forty-two percent, and over that same time period  
4 the population in those regions increased by thirty-two percent  
5 while traffic delays and congestion exploded by one hundred  
6 forty-four percent, proving that "widening the freeways" won't  
7 solve the traffic problems in the State; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, the only guaranteed way to reduce traffic in the  
10 State is to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads; now,  
11 therefore,

12  
13           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
15 that the State is encouraged to establish a zero net vehicle  
16 growth policy, which would ensure that the total number of  
17 vehicles in the State does not exceed the vehicle threshold for  
18 the State based on the number of registered vehicles in the  
19 State as of January 1, 2022; and

20  
21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
22 Transportation is requested to convene a working group to  
23 determine the feasibility and best course of action for the  
24 State to adopt a zero net vehicle growth policy; and

25  
26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised  
27 of the following members, or their designees:

- 28  
29           (1) The Chairperson of the Senate Committee on  
30 Transportation, who should serve as co-chair of the  
31 working group;  
32  
33           (2) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
34 Committee on Transportation, who should serve as co-  
35 chair of the working group;  
36  
37           (3) The Director of Transportation;  
38  
39           (4) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
40 Tourism;  
41



- 1 (5) President of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers
- 2 Association; and
- 3
- 4 (6) Any other members as may be necessary, as invited by
- 5 the co-chairs; and
- 6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group  
 8 serve without compensation; and

9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
 11 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
 12 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
 13 than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2022; and

14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following categories of  
 16 vehicles should be exempt from counting towards the zero net  
 17 vehicle growth policy threshold:

- 18
- 19 (1) Emergency vehicles;
- 20
- 21 (2) Military vehicles; and
- 22
- 23 (3) Official federal, state, and county vehicles; and
- 24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
 26 Transportation, to the extent possible, should coordinate State  
 27 efforts to develop markets for recycled vehicles; and

28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every vehicle dealership should  
 30 be required to submit proof of compliance with the zero net  
 31 vehicle growth policy in their monthly reports required under  
 32 section 238-9.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 35 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Director of  
 36 Transportation; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
 37 Tourism; and President of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers  
 38 Association.

39  
 40  
 41

OFFERED BY: 

