
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT INNOVATIVE POLICIES TO
IMPROVE TRANSIT AND 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
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5 WHEREAS, Honolulu consistently ranks among the worst cities
6 nationally for traffic congestion; and
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8 WHEREAS, the average commuter on Oahu spends sixty-four
9 hours each year sitting in traffic congestion; and
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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
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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
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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
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25 WHEREAS, there are only 4,476 miles of roads, paved and
26 unpaved, in the State; and
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28 WHEREAS, the State spends on average \$82,000,000 annually
29 on road repairs; and
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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



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2 WHEREAS, between 1993 and 2017, the nation's one hundred
3 largest urbanized areas added 30,511 new freeway lane-miles, an
4 increase of forty-two percent, and over that same time period
5 the population in those regions increased by thirty-two percent
6 while traffic delays and congestion exploded by one hundred
7 forty-four percent, proving that "widening the freeways" won't
8 solve the traffic problems in the State; and
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10 WHEREAS, a new focus on affordable housing development will
11 add tens of thousands of commuters to the roads in the years to
12 come; and
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14 WHEREAS, the only effective way of improving transit and
15 reducing traffic in the State is to shift away from spending
16 limited resources on adding lane miles for vehicles and instead
17 investing in alternative transit infrastructure and adopting
18 policies that reduce the number of vehicles on the roads; now,
19 therefore,
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
23 that the State is encouraged to consider and adopt innovative
24 policies to invest in alternative transit infrastructure and
25 reduce the number of vehicles on the road; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
28 Transportation is requested to convene a working group to
29 examine and consider innovative policies to invest in
30 alternative transit infrastructure and reduce the number of
31 vehicles on the road; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised
34 of the following members, or their designees:
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- 36 (1) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on
37 Transportation, who should serve as co-chair of the
38 working group;
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- 40 (2) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives
41 Standing Committee on Transportation, who should serve
42 as co-chair of the working group;



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(3) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Housing;

(4) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Housing;

(5) The Director of Transportation;

(6) The Chief Energy Officer;

(7) A representative of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association;

(8) A representative of the Ulupono Initiative;

(9) A representative of the Hawaii Bicycling League; and

(10) Any other members as may be necessary, as invited by the co-chairs; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Transportation, Chief Energy Officer, President of Ulupono Initiative, President of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Association, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Bicycling League.

