

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EVALUATE KUAKINI HIGHWAY AND QUEEN KAAHUMANU HIGHWAY BETWEEN HENRY STREET AND KAMEHAMEHA III ROAD ON HAWAI'I ISLAND AND CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING TRAFFIC REDUCTION BY WIDENING THE HIGHWAY OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEANS.

1 WHEREAS, the island of Hawai'i is experiencing growth in
2 population and as a result, an increase in difficulties
3 generated by a significant growth in traffic; and
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5 WHEREAS, vehicle traffic on Kuakini Highway between Lako
6 Street and Kamehameha III Road on Hawai'i island typically causes
7 traffic jams lasting several consecutive hours in the mornings
8 and evenings; and
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10 WHEREAS, North Kona's population spiked by almost four
11 thousand people to nearly forty-two thousand in total from 2010
12 through 2016, causing additional traffic on Kuakini Highway and
13 Queen Kaahumanu Highway; and
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15 WHEREAS, relieving the bottleneck where the Queen Kaahumanu
16 and Kuakini Highways merge is necessary for the community's
17 safety; and
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19 WHEREAS, S.B. No. 1011, Regular Session of 2021, proposes
20 to appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation to
21 widen Queen Kaahumanu Highway and Kuakini Highway; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Transportation found that
24 the rapidly growing population in west Hawai'i has contributed to
25 consistent vehicle traffic on Queen Kaahumanu Highway and
26 Kuakini Highway; and
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28 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation initiated a study
29 that determined that widening Kuakini Highway from two to four
30 lanes would require land acquisitions from over one hundred
31 fifty property owners and funding in excess of \$150,000,000; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation terminated the
3 Kuakini Highway widening study due to the project's
4 infeasibility; and
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6 WHEREAS, easing traffic at one of Kona's most frustrating
7 pinch points on Kuakini Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway
8 between Henry Street and Kamehameha III Road is in the best
9 safety and public welfare interests of the State; now,
10 therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
14 that the Department of Transportation is requested to evaluate
15 Kuakini Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway between Henry Street
16 and Kamehameha III Road on Hawai'i island and conduct a
17 feasibility study regarding traffic reduction by widening the
18 highway or other alternative means; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in exploring other alternative
21 means of traffic reduction, the Department of Transportation is
22 requested to consider repainting traffic lanes from fourteen
23 feet to ten feet; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
26 Transportation is urged to place on its priority list the
27 Kuakini Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway project under the
28 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and provide a
29 report on how to reclassify the project as a safety project,
30 including any proposed legislation and recommendations; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
33 Transportation is requested to submit its report to the
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
35 the Regular Session of 2022; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
3 Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.

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OFFERED BY: _____

