
SENATE CONCURRENT 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
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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
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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
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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



1 to bike lanes, sidewalks, and safe forms of cheaper
2 transportation, leaving low-income households in auto-centric
3 communities more likely to fall into poverty; and
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5 WHEREAS, one direct outcome of this problem is that drivers
6 are more likely to strike and kill pedestrians in low-income
7 neighborhoods than in high-income neighborhoods due to a lack of
8 safe walking and biking infrastructure; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii should modernize ground transportation
11 infrastructure by incorporating safer, protected, walking and
12 biking infrastructure, moving away from auto-centric policies,
13 and address infrastructure inequalities in underserved
14 communities to help reduce the cost of living, improve the
15 quality of life for local residents, and stimulate the economy;
16 and,
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18 WHEREAS, the Biden Administration and federal Department of
19 Transportation are modernizing priorities and federal
20 infrastructure grant funding programs to more prominently focus
21 on innovative projects that address alternative transportation
22 and target underserved communities; and
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24 WHEREAS, Hawaii should begin planning and design for
25 projects that will place Hawaii in an optimal position to take
26 advantage of coming federal grant funding and infrastructure
27 support to address the needs of underserved communities in
28 Hawaii; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Department
33 of Transportation is requested to prioritize and execute three
34 pilot projects of meaningful scale demonstrating innovative new
35 ways to improve safety, reduce the cost of transportation for
36 local residents, and improve quality of life in underserved
37 communities, with a particular focus on those that may include
38 public housing or Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
39 beneficiaries; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county partner agencies are
2 requested to participate with the Department of Transportation
3 to prioritize and execute the pilot projects; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
6 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
7 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce
8 transportation costs between an area of current or future high
9 density and the downtown urban core, providing a protected
10 highway for bicycle and pedestrian commuters without
11 intersecting vehicular traffic or other impediments, similar to
12 the safe and direct commutes made possible by the New York City
13 High Line for pedestrians, or the Xiamen Bicycle Skyway for
14 bicycle commuters; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
17 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
18 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce
19 transportation costs for students commuting to school, providing
20 protected bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools focusing on
21 an area that serves as many schools as possible, and may partner
22 with a county in doing so; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
25 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
26 maximize safe and protected active health exercise pathways
27 serving a high-density area, and may partner with a county in
28 doing so; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
32 of Transportation, and the Mayor of each county.

