
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
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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
32 to bike lanes, sidewalks, and safe forms of cheaper



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

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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
13 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
14 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce
15 transportation costs for students commuting to school, providing
16 protected bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools focusing on
17 an area that serves as many schools as possible, and may partner
18 with a county in doing so; and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
21 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
22 maximize safe and protected active health exercise pathways
23 serving a high-density area, and may partner with a county in
24 doing so; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of
28 Transportation, and the Mayor of each county.

