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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO  
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP AND VARIOUS COMMITTEES TO CREATE  
AND RECOMMEND FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY SUBSIDIES FOR THE  
TRANSPORT OF WATERBORNE CARGO CONSISTENT WITH THE FINDINGS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WATER CARRIERS WORKING GROUP'S  
FINAL REPORT.

1 WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 125, S.D. 1, Regular Session  
2 of 2020, requested that the Public Utilities Commission, in  
3 collaboration with the Department of Commerce and Consumer  
4 Affairs' Division of Consumer Advocacy and any interisland water  
5 carriers operating in the State, convene a Water Carriers  
6 Working Group to recommend mid-term and long-term solutions to  
7 balance the need for continuous interisland water carrier  
8 service throughout the State with the need for water carriers to  
9 maintain financial sustainability; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, on December 27, 2021, the Water Carriers Working  
12 Group issued its final report on its findings and  
13 recommendations; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the Water Carriers Working Group's final report  
16 noted that:

- 17  
18 (1) Hawaii's communities are mostly dependent on the  
19 import of goods, as over eighty percent of goods  
20 consumed in Hawaii are imported, of which over ninety-  
21 eight percent is transported as waterborne cargo;  
22  
23 (2) Hawaii must rely heavily on transport of cargo by  
24 water carrier, unlike other communities in the  
25 continental United States that have alternative means  
26 of transporting goods by truck and rail;  
27  
28 (3) The cost of shipping goods to and within Hawaii is  
29 reflected in the cost of imported goods consumed in



1 Hawaii and has been calculated to be as much as 7.5  
2 percent of the cost of the goods;

3  
4 (4) Due to Hawaii's dependency on the import of goods,  
5 maritime support to ensure food security in the State  
6 is required; and

7  
8 (5) While there are agricultural-specific subsidies, as  
9 well as subsidies for aircrafts transporting to remote  
10 destinations, subsidies do not currently exist for  
11 general cargo transport to and within Hawaii; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the Water Carriers Working Group's final report  
14 recommended that:

15  
16 (1) A broad subsidy for trans-Pacific and interisland  
17 cargo could reduce the cost of goods;

18  
19 (2) The source of such subsidies could be from existing or  
20 newly created federal, state, and county government  
21 programs;

22  
23 (3) The Legislature pass a resolution directing the Hawaii  
24 State Department of Transportation to convene a  
25 working group to create and recommend federal, state,  
26 and county subsidies for the transport of waterborne  
27 cargo and provide an update on the status of creating  
28 these programs to the Legislature prior to the  
29 convening of the Regular Session of 2023;

30  
31 (4) The Hawaii State Department of Transportation lead a  
32 committee to continue working and consulting with the  
33 United States Department of Transportation in the  
34 establishment of a federal waterborne cargo subsidies  
35 program, including the drafting of legislative  
36 language;

37  
38 (5) The Hawaii State Department of Transportation lead a  
39 committee to work and consult with the Hawaii  
40 Congressional Delegation to sponsor a bill to  
41 establish a federal waterborne cargo subsidies program



1 within the United States Department of Transportation;  
2 and  
3

- 4 (6) The Hawaii State Department of Transportation lead a  
5 committee to work and consult with the Hawaii State  
6 Senate and House of Representatives Standing  
7 Committees on Transportation, county departments of  
8 transportation, and county councils in the  
9 establishment of local waterborne cargo subsidies  
10 program, including the drafting of legislation; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, on November 5, 2021, the National Conference of  
13 State Legislatures passed a resolution that:  
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- 15 (1) Urges Congress to fund a broad subsidy for trans-  
16 Pacific, trans-Atlantic, and interisland waterborne  
17 cargo to improve the affordability of imported goods;  
18 and  
19

- 20 (2) Requests that the United States Department of  
21 Transportation Maritime Administration develop and  
22 implement a federal waterborne cargo subsidies program  
23 and that sources of any subsidies may be from existing  
24 or newly created federal programs; now, therefore,  
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
28 of 2022, that the Hawaii State Department of Transportation is  
29 requested to convene a working group and various committees to  
30 create and recommend federal, state, and county subsidies for  
31 the transport of waterborne cargo consistent with the findings  
32 and recommendations of the Water Carriers Working Group's final  
33 report; and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of  
36 the following members:  
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- 38 (1) The Senate President, or the President's designee;  
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40 (2) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the  
41 Speaker's designee;  
42



- 1 (3) The mayor of each county, or the respective mayor's  
2 designee;  
3  
4 (4) One representative from the Department of Business,  
5 Economic Development, and Tourism;  
6  
7 (5) One representative from the Hawaii State Department of  
8 Transportation;  
9  
10 (6) One representative from the Department of Agriculture;  
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12 (7) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on  
13 Transportation; and  
14  
15 (8) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
16 Standing Committee on Transportation; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Department of  
19 Transportation is requested to convene a committee to continue  
20 working and consulting with the United States Department of  
21 Transportation Maritime Administration in the establishment of a  
22 federal waterborne cargo subsidies program, including the  
23 drafting of legislative language; and  
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Department of  
26 Transportation is requested to convene a committee to work and  
27 consult with the Hawaii Congressional Delegation to sponsor a  
28 bill to establish a federal waterborne cargo subsidies program  
29 within the United States Department of Transportation; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
32 to work and consult with the Senate and House of Representatives  
33 Standing Committees with the subject matter of Transportation,  
34 county departments of transportation, and county councils in the  
35 establishment of a local waterborne cargo subsidies program,  
36 including the drafting of legislation; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
39 to submit an interim report providing an update on the status of  
40 establishing these waterborne cargo subsidies programs to the  
41 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
42 the Regular Session of 2023; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
3 to submit a final report of its findings and recommendations,  
4 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature and  
5 Governor no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the  
6 Regular Session of 2024; and

7  
8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
9 Resolution be transmitted to Hawaii's Congressional Delegation;  
10 the Senate President; Speaker of the House of Representatives;  
11 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Director of Business,  
12 Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Transportation;  
13 Chairpersons of the Senate and House of Representatives Standing  
14 Committees with the subject matter of Transportation; and mayors  
15 of each county.  
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OFFERED BY: 

MAR 11 2022

