S.C.R. NO. 5.D. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PREPARE A PROPOSED LIST AND PRIORITIZE PROJECTS TO CREATE SAFE ROUTES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS LIVING IN HOUSING UNITS, RENTALS, HOTELS, CONDOMINIUMS, AND RESIDENTIAL PLACES STATEWIDE.

WHEREAS, independent living capabilities for Hawaii's senior population continues to be an integral component for health, longevity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the liberty of movement, travel, and matriculation promote and increase a senior citizen's sense of individual autonomy; and

WHEREAS, access to pedestrian-safe walkways, pathways, roadways, and other means of travel are essential for trade, commerce, resource gathering, and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, senior citizen pedestrians may have reduced physical abilities requiring assistive mobility devices, along with losses in hearing, vision, and reflexes that impede safe travel along pathways; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens may be more susceptible to slips, trips, and falls, due to elevation changes in walkways, pathways, and on uneven or slick surfaces; and

WHEREAS, in certain areas, senior living homes and residences are located in close proximity to major thoroughfares and highways, thereby increasing risk of personal injury and individual safety; and

WHEREAS, senior citizens are more likely to need emergency medical care when involved in traffic injuries with motor vehicles and propelled devices, and have a significantly higher fatality rate in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Transportation is requested to create pedestrian-safe routes and pathways that lead to and from places of residence in such a manner that adheres to the unique needs of the senior citizen population; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to work with elected legislators from each community to create a proposed list of pedestrian projects and prioritize their construction while incorporating statewide transportation plans, regional transportation plans, and funding opportunities as may be necessary for their construction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to consider the scope of this request to be a statewide implementation of the aforementioned subject areas, including the development and implementation of comprehensive safety protocols that identify barriers to safe mobility for the senior citizen population, and seek to provide educational resources to the public regarding road and sidewalk safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation 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 convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.