
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND POLICY AND
PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO ASSIST THE COUNTY OF HAWAII IN THE
ESTABLISHMENT AND FORMATION OF A METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION OR A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
ORGANIZATION.

1 WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act has
2 allocated \$358 million to the Metropolitan Planning Organization
3 Highway Planning Funding and \$107 million to Metropolitan
4 Planning Organization Transit Planning Funding to expend within
5 the next five years; and
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7 WHEREAS, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 required that
8 metropolitan planning organizations be established to serve as a
9 forum for collaboration among local communities and government
10 agencies and to direct federal funds toward projects that
11 increase access to opportunity and prosperity through improved
12 multimodal pedestrian, bicycle, and transit options; and
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14 WHEREAS, metropolitan planning organizations are designated
15 by agreement between the Governor and local governments that
16 together represent at least seventy-five percent of the affected
17 population, including the largest incorporated city based on
18 population, or in accordance with procedures established by
19 applicable state and local law; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has the
22 responsibility to support statewide transportation goals in the
23 State and work together with the counties to accomplish
24 transportation goals in their respective islands; and
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26 WHEREAS, there are two established metropolitan planning
27 organizations operating in the State of Hawaii, one located in



1 the County of Maui and the other in the City and County of
2 Honolulu; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 United States Census data,
5 200,629 people reside in the County of Hawaii, where the ability
6 to deliver quality public transportation services is hampered by
7 the sheer geographic distance between urban and rural areas; and
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9 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Council of the County of
10 Hawaii passed Resolution No. 262-21, urging the County's
11 Department of Planning to assess the feasibility of establishing
12 a metropolitan planning organization for the County of Hawaii;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, in June 2022, data points for urbanized areas will
16 be made available by the United States Census and such data will
17 be provided to the United States Department of Transportation
18 and the Governor of the State of Hawaii for determination of
19 metropolitan planning organization formation for urban areas of
20 fifty thousand people or greater; and
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22 WHEREAS, when the population for Kailua-Kona, Hilo, or Puna
23 exceeds forty-five thousand people, the Department of
24 Transportation is requested to begin the interim process of
25 establishing a metropolitan planning organization with the
26 County of Hawaii in cooperation with the Governor in accordance
27 with title 23 U.S.C. §134(b) and title 49 U.S.C. §5303(c); and
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29 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the policy board of
30 the metropolitan planning organization to make decisions that
31 are the result of the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive
32 transportation planning process and the organization's staff to
33 support and provide technical resources to the policy board; and
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35 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii does not have a metropolitan
36 planning organization; now, therefore,
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
39 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
40 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
41 Transportation is urged to convene an Intergovernmental Task
42 Force to recommend policy and provide guidance to assist the



1 County of Hawaii to establish and form a metropolitan planning
2 organization or a regional transportation planning organization
3 should the County of Hawaii not meet the population threshold of
4 the formalization of a metropolitan planning organization,
5 according to the 2020 census; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
8 Transportation is urged to provide the Intergovernmental Task
9 Force with a list of highway projects to be executed within the
10 next four years from the State Transportation Improvement
11 Program to support the development of the metropolitan planning
12 organization's transportation improvement program; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Intergovernmental Task
15 Force is requested to submit a report of its findings and
16 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, if needed
17 after review of existing state and federal regulation, to the
18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
19 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Intergovernmental Task
22 Force be dissolved upon submittal of its report; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
26 Transportation, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Councilmembers of
27 the County of Hawaii, Director of Mass Transit Agency, and
28 Director of Planning and Public Works of the County of Hawaii.

