

MAR 11 2022

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE AN
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE TO ASSIST THE COUNTY OF HAWAII
IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF A METROPOLITAN
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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i, one located in
28 the County of Maui and the other in the City and County of
29 Honolulu; and
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31 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 United States Census data,
32 200,629 people reside in the County of Hawai'i, where the ability
33 to deliver quality public transportation services is hampered by
34 the sheer geographic distance between urban and rural areas; and



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2 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Council of the County of
3 Hawai'i passed Resolution No. 262-21, urging the Department of
4 Planning and Sustainable Development to assess the feasibility
5 of establishing a metropolitan planning organization for the
6 County of Hawai'i; and
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8 WHEREAS, in June 2022, data points for urbanized areas will
9 be made available by the United States Census and the County of
10 Hawai'i is expected to reach the population threshold of fifty
11 thousand people for Kailua-Kona, Hilo, and Puna; and
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13 WHEREAS, when the population for Kailua-Kona, Hilo, or Puna
14 exceeds forty thousand people, the Hawaii Department of
15 Transportation is requested to begin the interim process of
16 establishing a metropolitan planning organization with the
17 County of Hawai'i and complete a self-certification proposal to
18 indicate that the County of Hawai'i has met all federal
19 requirements for the Federal Transit Administration; and
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21 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the policy board of
22 the metropolitan planning organization to make decisions that
23 are the result of the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive
24 transportation planning process and the organization's staff to
25 support and provide technical resources to the policy board; and
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27 WHEREAS, the County of Hawai'i does not have a metropolitan
28 planning organization; 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 2022,
32 that the Department of Transportation is urged to convene an
33 intergovernmental task force to assist the County of Hawai'i to
34 establish and certify a metropolitan planning organization; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
37 Transportation is urged to provide the intergovernmental task
38 force with a list of highway projects to be executed within the
39 next four years from the State Transportation Improvement
40 Program to support the development of the metropolitan planning
41 organization's transportation improvement program; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the intergovernmental task
3 force is requested to submit a report of its findings and
4 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
5 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the Regular Session of 2023; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force be dissolved upon
9 submittal of its report; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the State
13 Department of Transportation, Mayor of the County of Hawai'i, and
14 Councilmembers of the County of Hawai'i.
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OFFERED BY:

