
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON ALTERNATE EMERGENCY
ACCESS ROUTES TO SERVE THE HANAIEI TO HA'ENA COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands have seen an increase in
2 severe storm events; and
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4 WHEREAS, in Kauai County, events of flooding and landslides
5 render Hanalei and surrounding communities extremely vulnerable
6 to risks caused by severe weather events; and
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8 WHEREAS, in 2018, catastrophic flooding and landslides
9 impaired access and isolated Hanalei Valley for several weeks
10 and the communities of Ha'ena and Wainiha for much longer; and
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12 WHEREAS, just three years later, in 2021, a landslide
13 covered Hanalei Hill and cut off the entirety of Hanalei and
14 surrounding communities from the rest of Kauai for approximately
15 two weeks; and
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17 WHEREAS, these natural disasters and their impacts on
18 access routes and infrastructure cut off vulnerable populations,
19 such as keiki and kupuna, from vital health services, affect
20 emergency services, and disrupt school and work access and the
21 flow of critical goods and services, impairing businesses and
22 livelihoods; and
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24 WHEREAS, an alternative route for ingress and egress in the
25 event of natural disasters would provide an important evacuation
26 route for residents and visitors in the Hanalei area and help to
27 support community resiliency; and
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29 WHEREAS, potential alternate access routes include the
30 previous access road, currently used for electric utility lines
31 and utility substation, and over United States Fish and Wildlife
32 Service lands; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,
3 that the Department of Transportation is requested to convene a
4 task force to conduct a feasibility study of alternate emergency
5 access routes for the Hanalei to Ha'ena communities; and
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
8 Transportation, in convening the task force, is requested to
9 seek participation and input from the following stakeholders:
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- 11 (1) Hanalei Business Association;
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- 13 (2) Hanalei Watershed Hui;
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- 15 (3) Hanalei Initiative;
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- 17 (4) Hanalei to Ha'ena Community Association;
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- 19 (5) Hui Maka'ainana o Makana;
- 20
- 21 (6) Hanalei Roads Committee;
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- 23 (7) County of Kauai;
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- 25 (8) Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative;
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- 27 (9) United States Fish and Wildlife Service;
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- 29 (10) United States Geological Service; and
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- 31 (11) United States Army Corps of Engineers; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
34 Transportation is requested to submit a report of its findings
35 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation and an
36 estimate of required appropriation amounts, to the Legislature
37 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
38 Session of 2023; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Project Leader of the Pacific
42 Islands U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office, Region 12 Regional



1 Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Honolulu District
2 Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, members of the
3 Hawaii congressional delegation, Governor, Director of
4 Transportation, Mayor of Kauai County, Chair of the Kauai County
5 Council, Director of the Hanalei Business Association, Executive
6 Director of the Hanalei Watershed Hui, Executive Director of the
7 Hanalei Initiative, Executive Director of Hui Maka'āinana o
8 Makana, President of the Hanalei to Ha'ena Community Association,
9 President of the Hanalei Roads Committee, and Chief Executive
10 Officer of the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative.

