

MAR 11 2022

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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  
6

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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1 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 United States Census data,  
2 200,629 people reside in the County of Hawai'i, where the ability  
3 to deliver quality public transportation services is hampered by  
4 the sheer geographic distance between urban and rural areas; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Council of the County of  
7 Hawai'i passed Resolution No. 262-21, urging the Department of  
8 Planning and Sustainable Development to assess the feasibility  
9 of establishing a metropolitan planning organization for the  
10 County of Hawai'i; and  
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12 WHEREAS, in June 2022, data points for urbanized areas will  
13 be made available by the United States Census and the County of  
14 Hawai'i is expected to reach the population threshold of fifty  
15 thousand people for Kailua-Kona, Hilo, and Puna; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, when the population for Kailua-Kona, Hilo, or Puna  
18 exceeds forty thousand people, the Hawaii Department of  
19 Transportation is requested to begin the interim process of  
20 establishing a metropolitan planning organization with the  
21 County of Hawai'i and complete a self-certification proposal to  
22 indicate that the County of Hawai'i has met all federal  
23 requirements for the Federal Transit Administration; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the policy board of  
26 the metropolitan planning organization to make decisions that  
27 are the result of the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive  
28 transportation planning process and the organization's staff to  
29 support and provide technical resources to the policy board; and  
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31 WHEREAS, the County of Hawai'i does not have a metropolitan  
32 planning organization; now, therefore,  
33

34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
37 Transportation is urged to convene an intergovernmental task  
38 force to assist the County of Hawai'i to establish and certify a  
39 metropolitan planning organization; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
2 Transportation is urged to provide the intergovernmental task  
3 force with a list of highway projects to be executed within the  
4 next four years from the State Transportation Improvement  
5 Program to support the development of the metropolitan planning  
6 organization's transportation improvement program; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the intergovernmental task  
9 force is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
10 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
11 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
12 the Regular Session of 2023; and  
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force be dissolved upon  
15 submittal of its report; and  
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
19 State Department of Transportation, Mayor of the County of  
20 Hawai'i, and Councilmembers of the County of Hawai'i.  
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OFFERED BY: 

