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



1 population threshold of the formalization of a metropolitan
2 planning organization, according to the 2020 census; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
5 Transportation is urged to provide the Intergovernmental Task
6 Force with a list of highway projects to be executed within the
7 next four years from the State Transportation Improvement
8 Program to support the development of the metropolitan planning
9 organization's transportation improvement program; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Intergovernmental Task
12 Force is requested to submit a report of its findings and
13 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, if needed
14 after review of existing state and federal regulation, to the
15 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
16 the Regular Session of 2023; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Intergovernmental Task
19 Force be dissolved upon submittal of its report; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
23 Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Councilmembers of the County of
24 Hawaii, Director of Mass Transit Agency, and Director of
25 Planning and Public Works of the County of Hawaii.

