
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP
A GREEN HIGHWAY PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, green highways have been implemented across the
2 world to promote sustainability, reduce environmental impact,
3 and enhance the quality of life for communities along highways;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, green highways contribute to island heat
7 mitigation by incorporating features such as green
8 infrastructure, shade trees, and reflective pavements, which
9 help lower temperatures and combat urban heat island effects;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, beautification efforts along green highways
13 include landscaping with native plants, creating aesthetically
14 pleasing landscapes that enhance the visual appeal of highway
15 corridors, and providing habitat for local wildlife; and

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17 WHEREAS, green highways offer numerous benefits, including
18 improved air and water quality, reduced noise pollution,
19 enhanced biodiversity, and increased recreational opportunities
20 for residents and visitors alike; and

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22 WHEREAS, green highways also promote sustainable
23 transportation options such as walking and biking trails,
24 electric vehicle charging stations, and public transit access,
25 reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and lowering
26 greenhouse gas emissions; and

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28 WHEREAS, the implementation of a green highway program
29 aligns with statewide goals for environmental stewardship,
30 climate resilience, and sustainable development, contributing to
31 a healthier and more resilient future for the State's
32 communities; and
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1 WHEREAS, a new green highway stretch in Norway, known as
2 "the Green Shortcut" (Den Grønne Snarvei), has significantly
3 reduced journey times and environmental impact between Oslo and
4 Trondheim; and

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6 WHEREAS, considering the positive impact of green highways
7 on communities worldwide, the Department of Transportation must
8 take proactive steps to explore and implement similar
9 initiatives in the State; now, therefore,

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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
13 that a task force is requested to be convened to research and
14 develop a green highway program; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
17 include the following members or their designees:

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19 (1) A representative from the Department of
20 Transportation, selected and invited by the
21 chairpersons of the task force;
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23 (2) A representative from the Department of Land and
24 Natural Resources, selected and invited by the
25 chairpersons of the task force;
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27 (3) A representative with expertise in arboriculture,
28 selected and invited by the chairpersons of the task
29 force; and
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31 (4) Any other representative with subject matter
32 expertise, selected and invited by the chairpersons of
33 the task force; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate and
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives are requested to appoint
37 the co-chairpersons of the task force; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:

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41 (1) Develop green highway standards to address urban
42 temperatures, stormwater retention, unsightly



1 infrastructure impacting tourism, and mental health;
2 and

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4 (2) Examine best examples and practices in places that
5 successfully implement green highway infrastructure;
6 and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
10 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
11 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
12 2025; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
16 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

