

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPEDITE THE PLANNING, FUNDING, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PERMANENT REPLACEMENT FOR THE KULANIHAKOI BRIDGE.

1 WHEREAS, the Kulanihakoi Bridge, located in South Maui,
2 serves as a critical infrastructure component, facilitating
3 transportation and connectivity for residents and visitors
4 alike; and

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6 WHEREAS, the Kulanihakoi Bridge was first constructed in
7 1911 and consisted of four individual reinforced concrete box
8 culverts, which were paved in the 1930's, making the foundation
9 of the bridge one hundred fourteen years old; and

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11 WHEREAS, in 2018, plans were initiated to replace the
12 deteriorating box culverts at the Kulanihakoi River Gulch with a
13 raised bridge to improve safety and resilience; and

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15 WHEREAS, the initial project faced significant challenges,
16 including the revelation that proposed temporary road crossings
17 mauka of the South Kihei Road were not permissible under
18 existing flood development regulations, leading to project
19 delays and the need for redesign; and

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21 WHEREAS, community organizations, such as the Kihei
22 Community Association, have long advocated for a more
23 cost-effective and improved solution to replace the deteriorated
24 box culverts in the Kulanihakoi River Gulch with a raised
25 bridge, eliminating the need for temporary structures in the
26 riverbed; and

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28 WHEREAS, the current temporary construction solution at the
29 Kulanihakoi Bridge may not provide the necessary long-term
30 reliability and safety required for the region's infrastructure
31 needs; and
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1 WHEREAS, a permanent replacement of the Kulanihakoi Bridge
2 would enhance transportation safety, improve flood management,
3 and support the economic vitality of South Maui; and
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5 WHEREAS, collaboration between the County of Maui and the
6 United States Army Corps of Engineers is essential to design and
7 implement a permanent bridge solution that meets federal, state,
8 and local standards; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
12 that the County of Maui and the United States Army Corps of
13 Engineers are urged to prioritize and expedite the planning,
14 funding, and construction of a permanent replacement for the
15 Kulanihakoi Bridge; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the County of
18 Maui and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to engage
19 with local communities, stakeholders, and experts to ensure the
20 new bridge design addresses environmental concerns, cultural
21 significance, and community needs; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
24 Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the United States
25 Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Ocean Division, Director of
26 Transportation, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Chairperson of
27 the Maui County Council.
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OFFERED BY: _____

