
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ENGAGE WITH THE
COMMUNITY TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT METHODS ALONG THE HANA HIGHWAY.

1 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is responsible
2 for maintaining traffic safety along state highways, including
3 maintaining adequate sight distance so highway users can safely
4 observe oncoming vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and roadside
5 infrastructure such as guardrails and signs; and
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7 WHEREAS, identifying vegetation management practices that
8 maintain roadway safety and reduce hazardous risk while
9 minimizing environmental impacts is an important public safety
10 objective for the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works of the County of
13 Hawaii banned the use of Roundup and other products containing
14 glyphosate along state highways in 2023; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation continues to
17 utilize herbicides such as Garlon (triclopyr) and other United
18 States Environmental Protection Agency-registered products for
19 vegetation management and has established procedures governing
20 their use, which are currently being implemented on state
21 highways, including on Maui; and
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23 WHEREAS, safety data sheets and hazard classifications for
24 certain herbicides used for roadside vegetation management
25 indicate that products such as Finale XL and Garlon may pose
26 risks to human health and aquatic ecosystems if exposure is not
27 properly controlled; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Hana Highway spans approximately sixty-four
30 miles along coastal areas, rivers, streams, and drainage



1 systems, raising concerns among community members regarding
2 potential environmental impacts from herbicidal vegetation
3 management practices along the corridor; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Hana Highway corridor traverses numerous
6 coastal watersheds, streams, and nearshore marine environments
7 that support native ecosystems and traditional native Hawaiian
8 cultural practices, including agricultural and subsistence ocean
9 activities; and
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11 WHEREAS, the protection of Hawaii's watersheds, streams,
12 and coastal resources is a matter of statewide concern and is
13 recognized as a public trust responsibility of the State under
14 article XI, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution; and
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16 WHEREAS, vegetation management practices conducted along
17 roadways that intersect these sensitive environmental areas may
18 have downstream impacts on water quality, aquatic life, and
19 culturally significant resources relied upon by surrounding
20 communities; and
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22 WHEREAS, east Maui contains some of the most significant
23 traditional agricultural systems in the State, including loi
24 kalo cultivation that relies on clean stream water, and
25 residents, cultural practitioners, and community members have
26 expressed concern regarding the potential impacts of chemical
27 vegetation management practices on streams and other public
28 trust resources and drainage corridors and have requested that
29 alternative control methods be explored; and
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31 WHEREAS, residents along the Hana Highway have expressed a
32 desire to engage with the Department of Transportation to
33 explore vegetation management approaches that maintain roadway
34 safety while reducing or eliminating the use of herbicides; now,
35 therefore,
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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
39 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
40 Transportation is urged to examine and identify alternative
41 vegetation management methods that would eliminate or



1 significantly reduce the use of synthetic chemical herbicides
2 along the Hana Highway while maintaining roadway safety; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
5 Transportation is requested to hold public meetings in east Maui
6 to hear concerns and develop solutions, including:
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- 8 (1) Reviewing current vegetation management practices used
9 along the Hana Highway;
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11 (2) Examining existing alternative vegetation management
12 methods to reduce or eliminate synthetic chemical
13 herbicide use;
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15 (3) Exploring and implementing additional and out-of-the-
16 box vegetation management strategies developed in
17 consultation with community stakeholders;
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19 (4) Considering and discussing the use of organic, eco-
20 friendly herbicides; and
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22 (5) Identifying and recommending best practices for
23 maintaining roadside vegetation along the Hana Highway
24 while minimizing or eliminating herbicide use; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
27 Transportation is requested to explore opportunities for
28 community-based stewardship and monitoring efforts that may
29 assist the Department in identifying vegetation management needs
30 along the Hana Highway; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
33 Transportation is requested to continue to fulfill its
34 responsibility to maintain Hana Highway and the road to Hana and
35 maintain its budgetary commitments while participating in this
36 process; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
39 Transportation is requested to engage in good faith with
40 community stakeholders in east Maui to develop vegetation
41 management approaches that maintain roadway safety while
42 minimizing environmental and public health concerns; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to consider whether the process developed through this engagement may serve as a model for community engagement and vegetation management planning along other state highways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.

