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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE AND CLEARLY  
DEFINE JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HONOPOU BRIDGE AND  
TAKE COORDINATED ACTION TO ADDRESS RELATED SAFETY, WILDFIRE  
RISK, AND EMERGENCY ACCESS CONCERNS.

1           WHEREAS, Honopou Bridge, located along Honopou Road in east  
2 Maui, provides critical access for residents, agricultural  
3 operators, cultural practitioners, and emergency responders  
4 serving properties makai of the bridge; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, Honopou Road traverses parcels of mixed ownership,  
7 and a 2007 report issued pursuant to Act 107, Session Laws of  
8 Hawaii 2006 (Act 107), identified Honopou Bridge as being  
9 situated within a parcel owned by the State and under the  
10 jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources;  
11 and

12  
13           WHEREAS, the bridge was originally designed in 1990 for the  
14 Department of Land and Natural Resources with a load capacity of  
15 approximately five tons; and

16  
17           WHEREAS, following community safety concerns and  
18 legislative review, the Department of Land and Natural Resources  
19 obtained updated structural engineering advice and concluded  
20 that, without improvements or maintenance, the vehicle load  
21 rating could be increased to thirteen tons if vehicle speeds  
22 were kept below five miles per hour; and

23  
24           WHEREAS, Act 107 further required the Department of  
25 Transportation to review safety issues and determine the cost of  
26 strengthening the bridge to allow the safe passage of the Maui  
27 County Fire Department; and

28



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1 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation reported that the  
2 bridge was originally designed as an emergency replacement for a  
3 failed wooden bridge in 1994 for significantly lighter loads,  
4 approximately five tons, which is below the weight of modern  
5 fire apparatus and other emergency response vehicles, and  
6 recommended increasing the load capacity to approximately twenty  
7 tons; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, east Maui communities are geographically isolated  
10 and face heightened vulnerability to wildfire, flooding, severe  
11 weather, and medical emergencies; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, recent catastrophic wildfires in Maui have  
14 underscored the urgent need to ensure reliable ingress and  
15 egress routes for evacuation and emergency response; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, limitations on bridge load capacity may restrict  
18 or delay fire engines, water tenders, ambulances, law  
19 enforcement vehicles, and utility repair trucks, thereby  
20 increasing risk to life, property, and critical infrastructure;  
21 and

22  
23 WHEREAS, pursuant to chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
24 the State has a duty to ensure adequate emergency management and  
25 disaster preparedness to protect public health and safety; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, article XI, section 1, of the Hawaii State  
28 Constitution establishes the public trust doctrine and affirms  
29 the State's obligation to protect and preserve natural resources  
30 and related public interests; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, prolonged jurisdictional ambiguity has contributed  
33 to delays in implementing structural upgrades necessary to  
34 ensure adequate emergency response capacity for Honopou Bridge;  
35 now, therefore,

36  
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 Land and  
40 Natural Resources and Department of Transportation are urged to  
41 determine and clearly define jurisdictional responsibility for



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1 Honopou Bridge and take coordinated action to address related  
2 safety, wildfire risk, and emergency access concerns; and

3  
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
5 Natural Resources and Department of Transportation are urged to:

- 6  
7 (1) Conduct meaningful community outreach, including  
8 public meetings, stakeholder consultations, and  
9 community surveys of affected residents and landowners  
10 in east Maui, to gather input related to the Honopou  
11 Bridge on safety concerns, emergency access needs,  
12 wildfire evacuation considerations, and preferred  
13 infrastructure solutions;  
14  
15 (2) Conduct or update a comprehensive assessment of the  
16 Honopou Bridge's structural condition, load capacity,  
17 and wildfire evacuation access needs, including  
18 community input regarding the need for and  
19 desirability of improved access;  
20  
21 (3) Identify any current restrictions affecting emergency  
22 vehicle access;  
23  
24 (4) Develop and implement a coordinated repair,  
25 rehabilitation, or replacement plan sufficient to  
26 safely accommodate modern emergency response vehicles;  
27  
28 (5) Identify estimated costs and potential funding  
29 sources, including capital improvement project funding  
30 and federal disaster mitigation or resilience  
31 programs; and  
32  
33 (6) Submit a report of their findings and implementation  
34 timeline to the Legislature no later than twenty days  
35 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027;  
36 and  
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
40 Board of Land and Natural Resources and Director of  
41 Transportation.  
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul P. P.', written over a horizontal line.

MAR 12 2026

