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# HOUSE 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  
31 systems, raising concerns among community members regarding



1 potential environmental impacts from herbicidal vegetation  
2 management practices along the corridor; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the Hana Highway corridor traverses numerous  
5 coastal watersheds, streams, and nearshore marine environments  
6 that support native ecosystems and traditional native Hawaiian  
7 cultural practices, including agricultural and subsistence ocean  
8 activities; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the protection of Hawaii's watersheds, streams,  
11 and coastal resources is a matter of statewide concern and is  
12 recognized as a public trust responsibility of the State under  
13 article XI, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, vegetation management practices conducted along  
16 roadways that intersect these sensitive environmental areas may  
17 have downstream impacts on water quality, aquatic life, and  
18 culturally significant resources relied upon by surrounding  
19 communities; and

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21 WHEREAS, East Maui contains some of the most significant  
22 traditional agricultural systems in the State, including loi  
23 kalo cultivation that relies on clean stream water, and  
24 residents, cultural practitioners, and community members have  
25 expressed concern regarding the potential impacts of chemical  
26 vegetation management practices on streams and other public  
27 trust resources and drainage corridors and have requested that  
28 alternative control methods be explored; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, residents along the Hana Highway have expressed a  
31 desire to engage with the Department of Transportation to  
32 explore vegetation management approaches that maintain roadway  
33 safety while reducing or eliminating the use of herbicides; now,  
34 therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
38 of 2026, that the Department of Transportation is urged to  
39 examine and identify alternative vegetation management methods  
40 that would eliminate or significantly reduce the use of  
41 synthetic chemical herbicides along the Hana Highway while  
42 maintaining roadway safety; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to hold public meetings in East Maui to hear concerns and develop solutions, including:

- (1) Reviewing current vegetation management practices used along the Hana Highway;
- (2) Examining existing alternative vegetation management methods to reduce or eliminate synthetic chemical herbicide use;
- (3) Exploring and implementing additional and out-of-the-box vegetation management strategies developed in consultation with community stakeholders;
- (4) Considering and discussing the use of organic, eco-friendly herbicides; and
- (5) Identifying and recommending best practices for maintaining roadside vegetation along the Hana Highway while minimizing or eliminating herbicide use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to explore opportunities for community-based stewardship and monitoring efforts that may assist the Department in identifying vegetation management needs along the Hana Highway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to continue to fulfill its responsibility to maintain Hana Highway and the road to Hana and maintain its budgetary commitments while participating in this process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to engage in good faith with community stakeholders in East Maui to develop vegetation management approaches that maintain roadway safety while minimizing environmental and public health concerns; and



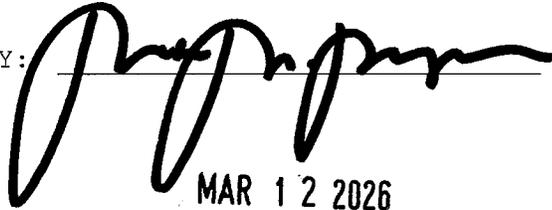
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
2 Transportation is requested to consider whether the process  
3 developed through this engagement may serve as a model for  
4 community engagement and vegetation management planning along  
5 other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

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

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and appears to be the name of the person offering the resolution.

MAR 12 2026

