
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
6

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
11

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
15

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
22

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
28

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

20
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,

35
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



1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
3 Transportation is requested to hold public meetings in east Maui
4 to hear concerns and develop solutions, including:

- 5
6 (1) Reviewing current vegetation management practices used
7 along the Hana Highway;
8
9 (2) Examining existing alternative vegetation management
10 methods to reduce or eliminate synthetic chemical
11 herbicide use;
12
13 (3) Exploring and implementing additional and out-of-the-
14 box vegetation management strategies developed in
15 consultation with community stakeholders;
16
17 (4) Considering and discussing the use of organic, eco-
18 friendly herbicides; and
19
20 (5) Identifying and recommending best practices for
21 maintaining roadside vegetation along the Hana Highway
22 while minimizing or eliminating herbicide use; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
25 Transportation is requested to explore opportunities for
26 community-based stewardship and monitoring efforts that may
27 assist the Department in identifying vegetation management needs
28 along the Hana Highway; and
29

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
31 Transportation is requested to continue to fulfill its
32 responsibility to maintain Hana Highway and the road to Hana and
33 maintain its budgetary commitments while participating in this
34 process; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
37 Transportation is requested to engage in good faith with
38 community stakeholders in east Maui to develop vegetation
39 management approaches that maintain roadway safety while
40 minimizing environmental and public health concerns; and
41



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

6
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
8 Transportation is requested to submit a report of its findings
9 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the Regular Session of 2027; and

12
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.

