

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF AIR POLLUTION FROM INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE VEHICLES AND THE RISKS THAT TRAFFIC-RELATED AIR POLLUTION POSES TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE AND AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT TO TRANSITION TO CLEANER TRANSPORTATION CHOICES.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is fortunate to generally experience good
2 air quality compared to many other parts of the United States;
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5 WHEREAS, statewide or regional air quality measurements do
6 not always capture localized or micro-scale pollution impacts
7 that may occur when individuals live, work, or attend school
8 near sources of air pollution, such as heavily traveled roadways
9 or areas with concentrated transportation activity; and
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11 WHEREAS, internal combustion engine vehicles contribute to
12 a significant amount of air pollution, including emissions of
13 nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, volatile
14 organic compounds, and other pollutants that can harm human
15 health; and
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17 WHEREAS, scientific research has demonstrated that exposure
18 to traffic-related air pollution is associated with a range of
19 adverse health outcomes, including asthma, chronic respiratory
20 symptoms, reduced lung function, impaired lung development in
21 children, decreased cognitive function, cardiovascular disease,
22 stroke, and premature death; and
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24 WHEREAS, epidemiologic evidence from places like New York's
25 South Bronx "Asthma Alley", as well as extensive research in
26 California and inner-cities across the United States, has linked
27 proximity to traffic-related air pollution to asthma,
28 cardiovascular disease, and other adverse health outcomes; and
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1 WHEREAS, children, older adults, and individuals with
2 existing respiratory or cardiovascular conditions are
3 particularly vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution;
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6 WHEREAS, internal combustion engine vehicle-related air
7 pollution can infiltrate homes, schools, and other buildings,
8 meaning that residents may experience exposure to pollution
9 indoors as well as outdoors; and

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11 WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that lower-income
12 communities and communities that already experience
13 environmental health burdens are more likely to be located near
14 major roadways and other sources of pollution; and

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16 WHEREAS, climate change intensifies the health impacts of
17 traffic-related air pollution, as warmer temperatures increase
18 the production of ground-level ozone and fewer trade wind days
19 lead to less natural ventilation and dispersal of air
20 pollutants; and

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22 WHEREAS, understanding the public health impacts of
23 traffic-related air pollution is important for informing
24 policies that protect public health and reduce pollution from
25 transportation sources; and

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27 WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii have a right to understand
28 how traffic-related air pollution affects the health of their
29 families and communities; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
33 that this body recognizes the public health impacts of air
34 pollution from internal combustion engine vehicles and the risks
35 that traffic-related air pollution poses to communities across
36 the State; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body acknowledges that
39 certain communities, including those located near major roadways
40 and areas with concentrated transportation activity, as well as
41 vulnerable populations such as children, older adults, and
42 individuals with existing health conditions, may experience



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1 disproportionate exposure to harmful air pollution caused by
2 internal combustion engine vehicles; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that these
5 impacts may intersect with socioeconomic inequities and
6 environmental justice concerns, including the disproportionate
7 burdens that may fall on lower-income communities; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body affirms its
10 commitment to policies that reduce pollution from transportation
11 sources and supporting the transition toward cleaner
12 transportation choices that protect public health, improve air
13 quality, and promote more equitable outcomes for the people of
14 Hawaii; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of
18 Transportation, Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission,
19 and Chief Energy Officer of the Hawaii State Energy Office.

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OFFERED BY:

