

MAR 16 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COORDINATE WITH UTILITY PROVIDERS OPERATING WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHTS-OF-WAY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PLAN AND SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS DERELICT OR AGING UTILITY POLES AND LINES ALONG FARRINGTON HIGHWAY AND OTHER HIGH-RISK CORRIDORS.

1 WHEREAS, public safety along state highways is of paramount
2 importance, particularly in coastal, high-wind, and heavily
3 traveled corridors; and
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5 WHEREAS, aging, damaged, or derelict utility poles and
6 overhead lines located within state highway rights-of-way may
7 pose safety hazards to motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and
8 nearby residents; and
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10 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway serves as a major
11 transportation artery for the Leeward Coast of Oahu and has
12 experienced incidents involving downed or deteriorated utility
13 infrastructure, raising concerns regarding resilience, safety,
14 and emergency access; and
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16 WHEREAS, similar conditions may exist along other high-risk
17 state highway corridors that are vulnerable to severe weather
18 events, coastal erosion, traffic impacts, or deferred
19 maintenance; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation plays a critical
22 role in coordinating infrastructure planning and maintenance
23 activities within those corridors; and
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25 WHEREAS, utility providers operate infrastructure within
26 state highway rights-of-way pursuant to permits, easements, or
27 other agreements and share responsibility for the maintenance,
28 repair, and replacement of their infrastructure; and
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1 WHEREAS, a coordinated, data-driven, and phased statewide
2 to address this aging infrastructure plan could improve public
3 safety, enhance infrastructure resilience, clarify maintenance
4 responsibilities, and better align capital improvement schedules
5 among state and private stakeholders; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,
9 that the Department of Transportation is requested to coordinate
10 with utility providers operating within state highway rights-of-
11 way to develop a comprehensive statewide plan and schedule to
12 address derelict or aging utility poles and lines along
13 Farrington Highway and other high-risk corridors; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
16 Transportation is requested to:

- 17 (1) Convene relevant utility providers to conduct a
18 coordinated assessment of derelict, inactive, or aging
19 infrastructure;
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- 21 (2) Develop a comprehensive removal, repair, or
22 remediation schedule;
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- 24 (3) Prioritize corridors with elevated wildfire risk, high
25 traffic volumes, or proximity to residential
26 communities;
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- 28 (4) Establish a standardized notification and coordination
29 process for unsafe or abandoned infrastructure;
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- 31 (5) Identify funding responsibilities and cost allocation
32 mechanisms; and
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- 34 (6) Evaluate whether existing statutes or franchise
35 agreements sufficiently define maintenance and removal
36 obligations for inactive utility infrastructure within
37 state highway rights-of-way; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
41 Transportation is requested to submit a report detailing
42 identified infrastructure, remediation schedules, responsible



1 entities, and any statutory or regulatory barriers, including
2 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
4 2027; and

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

OFFERED BY:  _____

