
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HONOPOU DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the safety of
2 residents of the Honopou district of the county of Maui may be
3 at risk because of the condition of Honopou road, which includes
4 Honopou bridge. Residents report that several years ago a Maui
5 county fire department fire truck failed to respond to an
6 emergency call for assistance from an Honopou district resident
7 because the fire truck crew apparently had concerns about the
8 truck's ability to safely cross the Honopou bridge. As a result
9 of the Maui county fire department's failure to cross Honopou
10 bridge to provide the necessary fire-fighting assistance, the
11 home of the district's resident burned down.

12 Presumably because of Honopou bridge's five ton rating, the
13 fire department feared for the safety of its firefighters in
14 crossing the bridge, although residents of the area report that
15 fully loaded cement trucks, weighing approximately thirty five
16 tons, cross Honopou bridge regularly, without incident.

17 Although Honopou road, a dirt road, runs through State
18 land, there is a jurisdictional dispute over ownership of



1 Honopou road, which includes the Honopou bridge. The department
2 of land and natural resources defers to the department of
3 transportation regarding ownership, which claims that the road
4 and bridge are the responsibility of the county of Maui.

5 The legislature further finds that lack of established
6 jurisdictional responsibility has resulted in a corresponding
7 lack of maintenance of Honopou road, including Honopou bridge.
8 To avoid future threats to the safety and well-being of the
9 residents of the Honopou district of the county of Maui, the
10 jurisdictional responsibility must be resolved and the Honopou
11 bridge must be strengthened and maintained in a manner that
12 allows the Maui county fire department safe access across the
13 Honopou bridge to provide necessary public services to the
14 Honopou area residents.

15 The purpose of this Act is to protect the safety and well
16 being of the residents of the Honopou district by:

- 17 (1) Resolving the jurisdictional ownership of the Honopou
18 road and Honopou bridge; and
19 (2) Determining the costs of bringing the Honopou bridge
20 up to standards that will allow access to Honopou
21 district residents by the Maui county fire department.



1 SECTION 2. The department of the attorney general shall
2 investigate and resolve the jurisdictional issue of ownership of
3 Honopou road, including Honopou bridge, and submit a report of
4 its findings and recommendations, including any legislation
5 deemed necessary to clarify legal jurisdiction, to the
6 legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of
7 the Regular Session of 2007.

8 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall review
9 the issues relating to the safety of Honopou bridge and submit a
10 report to the legislature and the mayor and county council of
11 Maui no later than twenty days before the convening of the
12 regular session of 2007. The report shall include the
13 department's findings and recommendations, including any
14 legislation deemed necessary, that will result in strengthening,
15 repairing, increasing the load limit, and improving Honopou
16 bridge to provide safe access to Honopou district by the Maui
17 county fire department. The department of transportation shall
18 include in its report the estimated cost of improvements to
19 Honopou bridge that are necessary to protect the safety and well
20 being of residents of the Honopou district.

21 Upon the attorney general's resolution of the issue of
22 ownership of Honopou road and Honopou bridge, the department of



1 transportation also shall forward its report to the entity
 2 identified by the attorney general as having jurisdiction over
 3 Honopou road and Honopou bridge. The department of
 4 transportation's report of its findings and recommendations
 5 shall be transmitted to the appropriate government agency no
 6 less than thirty days after the department's receipt of the
 7 attorney general's report resolving the issue of which public
 8 agency has responsibility for the Honopou road and Honopou
 9 bridge.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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HB 2737

Report Title:

Honopou Bridge; Ownership; Emergency Vehicles

Description:

Requires the attorney general to resolve ownership issues relating to Honopou road, including Honopou bridge, of the Honopou district in Maui County; requires the department of transportation to determine the costs of strengthening Honopou bridge to allow firetrucks to safely cross and reach area residents.

