
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A
STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN TO PROMOTE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN
HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the right to travel by walking or otherwise, is a
2 fundamental human right, the exercise of which in the developed
3 environment of our communities requires responsibly designed
4 public infrastructure; and
5

6 WHEREAS, although American society depends heavily on motor
7 vehicle transportation and many transportation systems are
8 focused on cars, pedestrians have the right to share public
9 thoroughfare with motorists and other forms of transportation,
10 such as bicycles and transit vehicles; and
11

12 WHEREAS, sidewalks and other pedestrian pathways benefit
13 society by:
14

- 15 (1) Providing freedom to travel for all, regardless of
16 age, disability, or income, and including those who
17 cannot drive, cannot afford to drive, or choose not to
18 drive;
19
- 20 (2) Providing a public right-of-way that is safe and
21 accessible;
22
- 23 (3) Reducing vehicular traffic congestion, energy
24 consumption, and pollution;
25
- 26 (4) Making our communities healthier, safer, and more
27 pleasant places for residents and visitors to enjoy;
28 and
29
- 30 (5) Increasing property values, access to jobs, and
31 recreational opportunities;
32



1 and

2

3 WHEREAS, walking is an increasingly popular transportation
4 option and recreational activity that would be greatly enhanced
5 by well designed, continuous, connected sidewalks with safe
6 crossings; and

7

8 WHEREAS, the failure to consider pedestrians in roadway
9 planning has led to less pedestrian access, faster motor
10 traffic, and greater distances between pedestrian destinations
11 and, in turn, has lead to needless injury and death, as well as
12 inconvenience, isolation, and pollution; and

13

14 WHEREAS, the failure to promptly and diligently build and
15 maintain urgently needed pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and
16 crosswalks, high-visibility warning devices, and traffic calming
17 measures has needlessly prolonged dangerous situations for all
18 pedestrians; and

19

20 WHEREAS, Hawaii has among the highest rates of pedestrian
21 fatalities in the nation, with the dubious distinction of having
22 the highest fatality rate for pedestrians over the age of 65 and
23 the 11th highest pedestrian fatality rate when considering all
24 ages; and

25

26 WHEREAS, the predominance of the automobile in
27 transportation planning has also led to the devaluation of
28 walking as a normal means of transportation and has contributed
29 to the high levels of physical inactivity and obesity we now
30 face; and

31

32 WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the American population is
33 considered overweight or obese with over half of Hawaii's
34 population considered to be overweight or obese; and

35

36 WHEREAS, increases in other illnesses such as diabetes,
37 coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, osteoporosis,
38 colon cancer, and breast cancer can also be linked to a
39 sedentary lifestyle; and

40

41 WHEREAS, these statistics are in stark contrast to Hawaii's
42 image as an island paradise and healthy state; and

43



1 WHEREAS, there is a need to build better communities by
2 providing and maintaining a continuous network of safe and
3 accessible sidewalks, pathways, and crossings for pedestrians
4 that are friendly to persons using wheelchairs, strollers, or
5 other mobility devices; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has
8 initiated a conscientious effort to develop a statewide
9 pedestrian safety action plan (Pedestrian plan); and

10
11 WHEREAS, DOT is working towards a comprehensive
12 transportation plan that includes pedestrians, and DOT
13 recognizes that it is desirable to involve all key stakeholders
14 to create a strong, cohesive, and integrated transportation
15 plan; now, therefore,

16
17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that DOT is requested to
20 complete a Pedestrian plan with the active participation of
21 citizen advocacy groups in all aspects of the development,
22 implementation, and evaluation of the plan; and

23
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing this Pedestrian
25 plan, DOT is requested to take into consideration all other
26 transportation safety planning efforts such as Bike Plan Hawaii;
27 and

28
29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
30 Department of Education, University of Hawaii Department of
31 Urban and Regional Planning, American Association of Retired
32 Persons, Walk Wise Hawaii, Hawaii Bicycling League, Peoples
33 Advocacy Trails Hawaii, Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition, Na
34 Kama Hele, American Planning Association-Hawaii Chapter, Sierra
35 Club- Hawaii Chapter, and Kaho'omiki-Hawaii Physical Activity
36 Council are requested to assist DOT in the development of the
37 Pedestrian plan; and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOT is requested to include any
40 and all other stakeholders whose involvement DOT deems necessary
41 or appropriate to the development of the Pedestrian plan; and
42

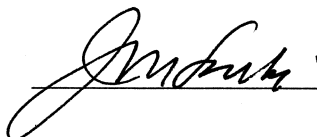


H.C.R. NO. 181

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOT is requested to submit to
2 the Legislature a report of its findings and recommendations,
3 including any proposed legislation, no later than 20 days prior
4 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and
5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Directors of
8 Transportation and Health, Superintendent of Education, Chair of
9 the Department of Urban and Regional Planning of the University
10 of Hawaii, American Association of Retired Persons, Walk Wise
11 Hawaii, Hawaii Bicycling League, Peoples Advocacy Trails Hawaii,
12 Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition, Na Kama Hele, American
13 Planning Association-Hawaii Chapter, Sierra Club-Hawaii Chapter,
14 and Kaho'omiki-Hawaii Physical Activity Council.
15
16
17

OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 15 2006

