
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SAFETY SIGNS ALONG MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY AND QUEEN KAAHUMANU HIGHWAY AND TO EXPEDITE THE CREATION OF A DIVIDED HIGHWAY FROM KAILUA-KONA TO KAWAIHAE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's traffic problems encompass a wide range
2 of issues, including road design, road repair and maintenance,
3 traffic congestion, traffic safety, and pedestrian safety, to
4 name a few; and

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6 WHEREAS, in 2003, 13 percent of Hawaii's roads were rated
7 in poor condition with an additional 53 percent rated in
8 mediocre condition; and

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10 WHEREAS, driving on roads in need of repair is estimated to
11 cost Hawaii drivers \$312 million per year in extra vehicle
12 operating costs, including vehicle depreciation, additional
13 vehicle repair and maintenance costs, and increased fuel
14 consumption; and

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16 WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes cost Hawaii motorists
17 approximately \$218 million annually, including medical costs,
18 lost economic and household productivity, property damage, and
19 travel delays; and

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21 WHEREAS, there were an estimated 10,660 motor vehicle
22 crashes involving \$3,000 or more in damages or causing injury or
23 death in the State in 2002; and

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25 WHEREAS, Hawaii County has experienced the highest motor
26 vehicle fatality rate in the state accounting for nearly 30
27 percent of all automobile deaths recorded statewide between 1996
28 and 2003; and



1 WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2003, drivers on the Big Island
2 experienced motor vehicle fatalities at a rate that when
3 adjusted for population, was nearly nearly twice that of Maui
4 and Kauai counties, and was three times the rate of Oahu
5 drivers; and

6
7 WHEREAS, both Mamalahoa Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway
8 on the Big Island experience many of the problems that
9 contribute to motor vehicle accidents such as long transit
10 distances, non-divided roadways, and wind and other natural
11 elements;

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13 WHEREAS, drivers on the Kona side of the Big Island have
14 access to emergency care only at North Hawaii Community Hospital
15 and Kona Hospital and are subjected to greater transit times to
16 hospital emergent care than drivers on Hawaii's other islands;
17 and

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19 WHEREAS, while several factors are associated with vehicle
20 accidents resulting in fatalities, including driver behavior,
21 vehicle characteristics, and roadway design, installation of
22 signs, other safety warning devices, and divided highways can
23 have an impact on highway safety; now, therefore,

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25 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
26 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
27 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
28 Transportation (DOT) is urged to install warning signs along
29 Mamalahoa and Queen Kaahumanu Highways on the Big Island of
30 Hawaii warning drivers of high winds and other potentially
31 dangerous driving conditions; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOT is also urged to expedite
34 the creation of a divided highway from Kailua-Kona to Kawaihae
35 on the Big Island of Hawaii; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOT submit a report to the
38 Legislature each year between now and 2010 on:

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40 (1) The installation of warning signs along Mamalahoa and
41 Queen Kaahumanu Highways;

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43 (2) The progress made in establishing a divided highway
44 between Kailua-Kona and Kawaihae; and



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(3) The number of fatalities that have occurred on Queen Kaahumanu Highway from 1990 to the present, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Sessions of 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010; and

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

OFFERED BY:

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MAR 02 2006

