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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WITH ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO  
DEVELOP A STATEWIDE GREENBELTS STRATEGY.

1           WHEREAS, approximately ninety per cent of personal travel  
2 in Hawaii is by private automobiles, which pollutes the air,  
3 clogs highways, and wastes energy reserves; and  
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5           WHEREAS, current land planning fosters dependency on  
6 personal automobiles by placing homes far from stores and jobs;  
7 and  
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9           WHEREAS, typical suburban development sprawls over the  
10 countryside, destroying Hawaii's natural beauty; and  
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12           WHEREAS, the State and the counties need to rethink their  
13 land use policies to reduce dependency on the personal  
14 automobile and imported oil used for travel; and  
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16           WHEREAS, new policies should promote mixed use pedestrian-  
17 oriented communities around transit hubs that blend reasonably  
18 priced housing, work, and shopping areas and create  
19 neighborhoods that encourage walking and biking; and  
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21           WHEREAS, greenbelts are linear open spaces established  
22 along either a natural corridor, such as a stream or ridgeline,  
23 or corridors established by humans, such as a trail, road, or  
24 former railway; and  
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26           WHEREAS, a greenbelt strategy should:  
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28           (1) Promote non-motorized transportation modes, such as  
29 walking, jogging, hiking, bicycling, skating, and  
30 horseback riding;  
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32           (2) Create integrated ground transportation and  
33 recreational systems;  
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- 1 (3) Benefit urban, suburban, and rural habitats;
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- 3 (4) Create and enhance recreational activities and
- 4 opportunities;
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- 6 (5) Enhance visitor attractions and associated business
- 7 opportunities;
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- 9 (6) Incorporate, where possible, the use of federal
- 10 funding available under the Intermodal Surface
- 11 Transportation Efficiency Act; and
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- 13 (7) Provide a resource guideline for further acquisition
- 14 of public, private, and government lands to be
- 15 utilized for public recreation and non-motorized
- 16 transit; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 19 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 20 of 2006, that the Department of Transportation, with the  
 21 assistance of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, is  
 22 requested to develop a statewide greenbelts strategy to promote  
 23 the identification or development of transportation system  
 24 management models and alternatives to the automobile pursuant to  
 25 chapter 226, Hawaii Revised Statutes, while preserving the  
 26 natural resources and beauty of the State; and

27  
 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the greenbelts  
 29 strategy, the Department of Transportation is requested to:

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- 31 (1) Incorporate existing and proposed non-motorized
- 32 transportation and recreational master plans for each
- 33 island;
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- 35 (2) Assess existing and potential lands for beautification
- 36 projects, corridors, and linkages to create greenbelts
- 37 on each island; including existing and former railway
- 38 lines, trails, creek and river corridors, roadways,
- 39 and other areas that are underutilized and could be
- 40 converted to public recreational use;
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- 42 (3) Gather information on other greenbelts programs
- 43 throughout the United States and the world;
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- 1 (4) Facilitate the coordination of the planning and  
2 implementation of greenbelts with federal, state, and  
3 county agencies, businesses, and citizens;  
4
- 5 (5) Facilitate the coordination of the planning of  
6 sustainable communities for the State;  
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- 8 (6) Examine funding strategies from public and private  
9 sources to implement various projects;  
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- 11 (7) Propose ways to educate and inform government  
12 officials and the public on the many benefits of  
13 greenbelts;  
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- 15 (8) Establish further goals and strategies to create  
16 greenbelts in Hawaii and set priorities for their  
17 implementation; and  
18
- 19 (9) Promote the health, safety, and welfare of the  
20 community by striving for a balance between motorized  
21 and non-motorized transit systems; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing a greenbelts  
24 strategy, the Department of Transportation is requested to  
25 confer with:

- 26
- 27 (1) The Office of Planning of the Department of Business,  
28 Economic Development, and Tourism;  
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- 30 (2) The director of each county's department responsible  
31 for transportation management issues;  
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- 33 (3) The director of each county's department responsible  
34 for planning issues;  
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- 36 (4) The Department of Urban and Regional Planning of the  
37 University of Hawaii;  
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- 39 (5) A citizen activist group from each of the islands; and  
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- 41 (6) Bicycle advocacy groups; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
 2 Transportation is requested to provide interested parties with  
 3 the opportunity to participate in developing the greenbelts  
 4 strategy by holding public meetings on all islands or, if that  
 5 is not feasible, by accepting testimony and public input via the  
 6 state video conferencing center; and

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 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
 9 Transportation is requested to develop an action plan with  
 10 recommendations on the deployment of the greenbelts strategy,  
 11 including proposed timetables and budgets; and

12  
 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
 14 Transportation is requested to submit its greenbelts strategy,  
 15 action plan for implementation of the greenbelts strategy, and  
 16 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, if  
 17 any, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
 18 convening of the Regular Session of 2007; and

19  
 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation, the  
 22 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the  
 23 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the  
 24 Mayor of each county, the director of each county's respective  
 25 planning department, the director of each county's respective  
 26 transportation department, the Chairperson of the University of  
 27 Hawaii Board of Regents, and the President of the University of  
 28 Hawaii.

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