

MAR 15 2006

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CREATE A
COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ACTION PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, the right to walk is a fundamental human right,
2 the exercise of which in our communities requires responsibly
3 designed public infrastructure; and
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5 WHEREAS, by design, our society depends heavily on motor
6 vehicle transportation; and yet, every day, each of us is a
7 pedestrian who needs and deserves to share the road safely with
8 motorists and other forms of transportation; and
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10 WHEREAS, sidewalks and pathways that link destinations
11 benefit everyone by:
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- 13 (1) Providing freedom of transportation with dignity to
14 all, regardless of age, disability or income,
15 including those who cannot drive, cannot afford to
16 drive, or choose not to drive;
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- 18 (2) Providing public right of way and providing safe and
19 accessible way to walk across the public right of way;
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- 21 (3) Reducing vehicular traffic congestion, energy
22 consumption, and pollution because they make alternate
23 transportation modes more practical for people;
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- 25 (4) Making our communities healthier, safer, and more
26 pleasant places for residents and visitors to enjoy
27 together; and
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- 29 (5) Increasing property values, access to jobs, and
30 recreational opportunities;
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32 and
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1 WHEREAS, walking is an increasingly popular transportation
2 option and recreational activity, and as a result well-designed,
3 continuous, connected sidewalks with safe crossings are highly
4 valued; and

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6 WHEREAS, the failure to consider the needs of pedestrians
7 in street and roadway planning has led to less access, faster
8 motor traffic, and greater distances between destinations and in
9 turn to inconvenience, isolation, pollution, needless injury,
10 and death; and

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12 WHEREAS, Hawaii has among the highest rates of pedestrian
13 fatalities in the nation, the highest fatality rate for senior
14 pedestrians ages 65 years and older, and the eleventh highest
15 pedestrian fatality rate for all ages; and

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17 WHEREAS, the predominance of the automobile has led to the
18 devaluation of walking as a normal means of transportation, and
19 contributed to the high levels of physical inactivity and
20 obesity the country now faces; and

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22 WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the American population is
23 overweight or obese; in Hawaii more than one-half (53.1 percent)
24 of the adult population was overweight (36 percent) or obese
25 (17.1 percent) in 2002, and the rate of diabetes has reached
26 nearly ten percent among adults nationwide; and

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28 WHEREAS, many other diseases are also linked to our
29 sedentary lifestyle such, as coronary heart disease, stroke,
30 hypertension, osteoporosis, and colon and breast cancer; and

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32 WHEREAS, these statistics are in stark contradiction to
33 Hawaii's image as an island paradise and healthy state; and

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35 WHEREAS, there is a need to build better communities by
36 conscientiously providing and adequately maintaining a
37 continuous network of sidewalks, pathways and safe and
38 accessible crossings for pedestrians and to make sidewalks and
39 pathways friendly to persons using wheelchairs, strollers or
40 other mobility aids; and

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42 WHEREAS, the failure to promptly and diligently fund,
43 design, build, and adequately maintain urgently needed
44 pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, crosswalks, high visibility



1 warnings and devices, and other traffic calming measures has
2 needlessly led to injury and the tragic loss of many lives; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is aware of the
5 scope and issues concerning pedestrian safety, is working
6 towards a comprehensive transportation plan that includes
7 pedestrians, and the creation of a pedestrian plan with all key
8 stakeholders is desirable to create a stronger more cohesive and
9 integrated planning effort; now, therefore,
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11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
12 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
13 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
14 Transportation is requested to complete a comprehensive
15 statewide pedestrian safety action plan with the active
16 inclusion, input, and participation of citizen advocacy groups
17 in all aspects of the development and future implementation and
18 evaluation of this plan; and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
21 Transportation is requested to take into consideration all other
22 transportation safety planning efforts such as Bike Plan Hawaii;
23 and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,
26 Department of Education, University of Hawaii Department of
27 Urban and Regional Planning, American Association of Retired
28 Persons, Walk Wise Hawaii, Hawaii Bicycling League, Keiki Injury
29 Prevention Coalition, Na Kama Hele, American Planning
30 Association-Hawaii Chapter, Sierra Club, and Kaho'omiki-Hawaii
31 Physical Activity Council are requested to assist the Department
32 of Transportation in the development of the statewide plan; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
35 Transportation reports on findings and recommendations no later
36 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
37 of 2007; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
41 Transportation, Director of Health, Superintendent of Education,
42 University of Hawaii's Department of Urban and Regional
43 Planning, American Association of Retired Persons, Walk Wise
44 Hawaii, Hawaii Bicycling League, Keiki Injury Prevention



S.C.R. NO. 110

1 Coalition, Na Kama Hele, American Planning Association-Hawaii
2 Chapter, Sierra Club, and Kaho'omiki-Hawaii Physical Activity
3 Council.

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OFFERED BY: *Jamie R. Inouye*

