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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON AGING TO COLLABORATE ON PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION TO SENIORS AND TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS, AND EXPRESSING THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ITNAMERICA FOR A FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL ROLL-OUT AND GRANTS.

1           WHEREAS, the Independent Transportation Network is a  
2 private, nonprofit community organization in the greater  
3 Portland, Maine area that uses passenger automobiles to  
4 transport seniors and visually impaired persons; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the program operates with a combination of  
7 volunteers and paid drivers, and obtains operating funds through  
8 memberships in the organization, rider fares, and support from  
9 individuals, community businesses, and private foundations; and  
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11           WHEREAS, one of the goals of the program is to provide an  
12 economically sustainable transportation service to people who  
13 can no longer drive safely; and  
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15           WHEREAS, in Hawaii, a person can renew a drivers license  
16 until the person exhibits a physical condition that the examiner  
17 of drivers reasonably believes has impaired the driver's ability  
18 to drive, unless the licensee obtains a physician's certificate  
19 or corrects the physical impairment; and  
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21           WHEREAS, the Independent Transportation Network provides  
22 riders with "door-through-door" service, assisting them in  
23 getting in and out of vehicles, helping them with their  
24 packages, and putting their wheelchairs in the car trunk; and  
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26           WHEREAS, volunteers use their own cars to drive people,  
27 although the program has its own small fleet of three donated  
28 cars driven by paid drivers; and  
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1 WHEREAS, drivers also receive a small mileage reimbursement  
2 and can build up credits to be used for their own transportation  
3 later if they cannot drive; and  
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5 WHEREAS, with an example in place in Portland, Maine, a  
6 related national nonprofit organization, ITNAmerica, is now  
7 planning a national roll-out to replicate the model in other  
8 locations and has obtained grants from the Federal Transit  
9 Administration and private foundation funding; and  
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11 WHEREAS, ITNAmerica is working with groups in Orlando,  
12 Florida; Santa Monica, California; Lincoln, Nebraska; the New  
13 Jersey Foundation for Aging; and New Jersey state transportation  
14 officials; and  
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16 WHEREAS, with Hawaii's aging population, an Independent  
17 Transportation Network program would be ideal; now, therefore,  
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
20 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,  
21 that the Department of Transportation and the Executive Office  
22 on Aging are requested to collaborate to formulate and implement  
23 a program similar to the Independent Transportation Network to  
24 provide transportation to seniors who can no longer drive safely  
25 and to visually impaired persons of any age, through a public  
26 and private partnership; and  
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature  
29 expresses its support for federal legislation to provide funding  
30 for ITNAmerica for a five-year national roll-out and grants; and  
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Office on Aging  
33 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
34 convening of the Regular Session of 2007 on the progress of  
35 establishing a program similar to the Independent Transportation  
36 Network to provide an economically sustainable transportation  
37 service through a public and private partnership to provide  
38 transportation to seniors who can no longer drive safely and to  
39 visually impaired persons of any age; and  
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
42 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,  
43 Director of the Executive Office on Aging, Governor, Majority  
44 Leader of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the



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1 United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of  
2 Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of  
3 Representatives, and the Governor.

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OFFERED BY: *Juanita R. Thomas*

