

JAN 27 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COUNTY OF
HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO CONDUCT A
ROAD SIGN AUDIT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the most beautiful places on
2 earth as an isle paradise centered in the Pacific Ocean; and
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii's beauty as a State is a direct result of
5 its vast visual impacts and views, *mauka* to *makai*; and
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7 WHEREAS, in its past, Hawaii suffered from a unique form of
8 pollution, visual pollution, which over time has been eradicated
9 by the assistance of active public groups such as the Outdoor
10 Circle, whose mission is "to protect and preserve Hawaii's
11 scenic environment;" and
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13 WHEREAS, this pollution was the overabundance of billboards
14 and other visually displeasing advertisements that greatly
15 impacted Hawaii's visual beauty; and
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17 WHEREAS, at present, Hawaii suffers from the negative
18 visual impact from the over abundance, redundancy, and lack of
19 oversight of road signage throughout the State; and
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21 WHEREAS, road sign placement, size, and appearance is
22 regulated by federal law and includes signs for use in
23 situations including regulatory signs, warning signs, guide
24 signs, informational signs, and others; and
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26 WHEREAS, certain road signs, namely informational and guide
27 signs, may be placed at the discretion of the authority with
28 jurisdiction over the roadway; and
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30 WHEREAS, in one instance, there is photographic proof of
31 the unnecessary and redundancy of road sign placement in the
32 State where up to six "NO PARKING" signs are used to regulate
33 the street parking of less than one block of roadway when one
34 such sign and red curb paint would be legally sufficient; and
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1 WHEREAS, there is evidence to suggest that the
2 discretionary nature of road sign placement in the State and
3 county jurisdictions lacks proper oversight, including
4 incidences where guide signs are summarily placed upon request
5 of residents or businesses in the community without a thorough
6 analysis as to the sign's need or impact; and
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8 WHEREAS, incidences also include where warning or
9 informational signs are placed as the result of lawsuits where
10 reasonable drivers should know of the condition present if the
11 vehicle were operated in a reasonable manner; and
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13 WHEREAS, groups such as the Outdoor Circle are desirous,
14 ready, willing, and able to assist and partner with the public
15 sector to analyze current signage and future placement of signs
16 to assure the best interest of Hawaii's beauty; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Outdoor Circle, and other members of the
19 private sector, if partnered with the public authorities with
20 jurisdiction over sign placement, could provide the Legislature
21 and other interested persons with feedback as to how signs are
22 used in the State and whether there is an issue with the overuse
23 of signs; now, therefore,
24

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
26 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
27 that the Department of Transportation, the County of Honolulu
28 Department of Transportation Services, representatives from the
29 Outdoor Circle, and any other participants that these
30 organizations deem necessary, form a public/private joint
31 taskforce to conduct an audit of the use, placement, and
32 necessity of road signs throughout the island of O'ahu; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this audit be carried out by
35 the joint taskforce of both public and private representatives
36 with the purpose of analyzing the need for any sign when
37 balanced against the social welfare of maintaining Hawaii's
38 natural visual beauty; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint taskforce is
41 requested to hold hearings and receive other public input about
42 signs that may be offensive to Hawaii's beauty and conduct other
43 means to receive information about problem signs; and
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S.R. NO. 3

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint taskforce conduct its
 2 analysis and provide a report recommending to the Department of
 3 Transportation and the County of Honolulu Department of
 4 Transportation Services what signs are unnecessary, redundant,
 5 or offensive to the visual pleasure of Hawaii; and

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 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint taskforce, after
 8 creating this report, is requested to present its findings to
 9 the Department of the Attorney General and the Department of the
 10 Corporation Counsel, respectively, for consultation as to
 11 whether there is any increased liability as a result of the
 12 recommendations of the joint taskforce; and

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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once it has been agreed by
 15 members of the joint taskforce that a sign is either redundant,
 16 unnecessary, or offensive and it may be removed with the consent
 17 of the government's legal advisors, the joint taskforce is
 18 requested to remove such signs or in the alternative, erect a
 19 sign or notice arrangement that results in less negative visual
 20 impact, including the use of curb markings; and

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 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint taskforce is
 23 requested to report its findings, recommendations, and actions
 24 to the Legislature twenty days before the convening of the
 25 Regular Session of 2008; and

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 27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 28 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation, the
 29 Director of Transportation Services for the County of Honolulu,
 30 and the President of the Outdoor Circle.

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OFFERED BY:

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