

MAR 15 2006

S.R. NO. **66**

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# SENATE 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  
9

10           WHEREAS, sidewalks and pathways that link destinations  
11 benefit everyone by:  
12

- 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;  
24
- 25           (4) Making our communities healthier, safer, and more  
26 pleasant places for residents and visitors to enjoy  
27 together; and  
28
- 29           (5) Increasing property values, access to jobs, and  
30 recreational opportunities;  
31

32 and  
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34           WHEREAS, walking is an increasingly popular transportation  
35 option and recreational activity, and as a result well-designed,



1 continuous, connected sidewalks with safe crossings are highly  
2 valued; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the failure to consider the needs of pedestrians  
5 in street and roadway planning has led to less access, faster  
6 motor traffic, and greater distances between destinations and in  
7 turn to inconvenience, isolation, pollution, needless injury,  
8 and death; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has among the highest rates of pedestrian  
11 fatalities in the nation, the highest fatality rate for senior  
12 pedestrians ages 65 years and older, and the eleventh highest  
13 pedestrian fatality rate for all ages; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, the predominance of the automobile has led to the  
16 devaluation of walking as a normal means of transportation, and  
17 contributed to the high levels of physical inactivity and  
18 obesity the country now faces; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of the American population is  
21 overweight or obese; in Hawaii more than one-half (53.1 percent)  
22 of the adult population was overweight (36 percent) or obese  
23 (17.1 percent) in 2002, and the rate of diabetes has reached  
24 nearly ten percent among adults nationwide; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, many other diseases are also linked to our  
27 sedentary lifestyle such, as coronary heart disease, stroke,  
28 hypertension, osteoporosis, and colon and breast cancer; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, these statistics are in stark contradiction to  
31 Hawaii's image as an island paradise and healthy state; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, there is a need to build better communities by  
34 conscientiously providing and adequately maintaining a  
35 continuous network of sidewalks, pathways and safe and  
36 accessible crossings for pedestrians and to make sidewalks and  
37 pathways friendly to persons using wheelchairs, strollers or  
38 other mobility aids; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, the failure to promptly and diligently fund,  
41 design, build, and adequately maintain urgently needed  
42 pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, crosswalks, high visibility  
43 warnings and devices, and other traffic calming measures has  
44 needlessly led to injury and the tragic loss of many lives; and



1           WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is aware of the  
2 scope and issues concerning pedestrian safety, is working  
3 towards a comprehensive transportation plan that includes  
4 pedestrians, and the creation of a pedestrian plan with all key  
5 stakeholders is desirable to create a stronger more cohesive and  
6 integrated planning effort; now, therefore,  
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8           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third  
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,  
10 that the Department of Transportation is requested to complete a  
11 comprehensive statewide pedestrian safety action plan with the  
12 active inclusion, input, and participation of citizen advocacy  
13 groups in all aspects of the development and future  
14 implementation and evaluation of this plan; and  
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16           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
17 Transportation is requested to take into consideration all other  
18 transportation safety planning efforts such as Bike Plan Hawaii;  
19 and  
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21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health,  
22 Department of Education, University of Hawaii Department of  
23 Urban and Regional Planning, American Association of Retired  
24 Persons, Walk Wise Hawaii, Hawaii Bicycling League, Keiki Injury  
25 Prevention Coalition, Na Kama Hele, American Planning  
26 Association-Hawaii Chapter, Sierra Club, and Kaho'omiki-Hawaii  
27 Physical Activity Council are requested to assist the Department  
28 of Transportation in the development of the statewide plan; and  
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30           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
31 Transportation reports on findings and recommendations no later  
32 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session  
33 of 2007; and  
34

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
36 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,  
37 Director of Health, Superintendent of Education, University of  
38 Hawaii's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, American  
39 Association of Retired Persons, Walk Wise Hawaii, Hawaii  
40 Bicycling League, Keiki Injury Prevention Coalition, Na Kama



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

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OFFERED BY: *Jamarie L. Prouse*

