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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REPORT TO THE  
LEGISLATURE ON THE COSTS OF, AND THE SAFETY ISSUES RELATED  
TO TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUTS.

1 WHEREAS, a roundabout is a type of road junction at which  
2 traffic streams around a central island, after first yielding to  
3 the circulating traffic; and

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5 WHEREAS, roundabouts are statistically safer than both  
6 large traffic circles and traditional intersections; and

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8 WHEREAS, roundabouts operate with yield control to give  
9 priority to circulating traffic and eliminate much of the driver  
10 confusion associated with large traffic circles and driver wait-  
11 time associated with junctions that have traffic lights; and

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13 WHEREAS, roundabouts separate incoming and outgoing traffic  
14 with pedestrian islands and therefore encourage slower and safer  
15 speeds; and

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17 WHEREAS, statistically, roundabouts are considered to be  
18 safer than both traffic circles and traditional intersections,  
19 having forty per cent fewer vehicle collisions, eighty per cent  
20 fewer injuries, and ninety per cent fewer serious injuries and  
21 fatalities; and

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23 WHEREAS, roundabouts also reduce points of conflict between  
24 pedestrians and motor vehicles and are therefore considered to  
25 be safer for pedestrians; and

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27 WHEREAS, however, there are substantial safety concerns for  
28 bicyclists as research recommends terminating bicycle lanes well  
29 before the entrances of a roundabout, so bicyclists can merge  
30 into the stream of motor traffic; and  
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1 WHEREAS, additionally, if adjacent cross-walks are not  
2 properly designed, there are serious risks for persons with  
3 visual impairments; and  
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5 WHEREAS, this has led to a conflict in certain areas of the  
6 United States between the visually impaired and civil  
7 engineering communities; and  
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9 WHEREAS, roundabouts are considered not to be suitable for  
10 freeways; and  
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12 WHEREAS, for junctions with a high traffic volume they are  
13 not suitable because congested traffic in one direction would  
14 quickly block a roundabout and impair traffic in all other  
15 directions; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that an objective, reasoned  
18 examination of issues by knowledgeable traffic engineers and  
19 safety personnel relating to the costs and safety aspects of  
20 roundabouts would assist its members in resolving this matter;  
21 now, therefore,  
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23 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
24 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
25 Session of 2007, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
26 Transportation is requested to report to the Legislature on the  
27 costs of and the safety issues related to traffic roundabouts;  
28 and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
31 Transportation is requested to include in the study the  
32 following:  
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- 34 (1) The costs of building a roundabout and the costs of  
35 implementing the widespread use of roundabouts in  
36 Hawaii;  
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- 38 (2) Comparing the costs of a roundabout with currently  
39 used traffic guidance systems, such as an  
40 intersection;  
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- 42 (3) The safety of all parties involved in the use of  
43 traffic roundabouts, such as motorists, motorcycle  
44 riders, moped drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists;



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2 (4) How to implement roundabouts into the traffic guidance  
3 system without endangering the visually impaired and  
4 bicyclists; and  
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6 (5) Any additional issues and concerns that the Department  
7 of Transportation sees arising by the use of  
8 roundabouts; and  
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
11 Transportation is requested to submit a report to the  
12 Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including  
13 suggested legislation, not later than twenty days before the  
14 convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and  
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the  
18 Director of Transportation.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*  
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*Maibach Lee*  
*Cindy Evans*  
*Pat 2*

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