
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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32 WHEREAS, additionally, if adjacent cross-walks are not
33 properly designed, there are serious risks for persons with
34 visual impairments; and



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2 WHEREAS, this has led to a conflict in certain areas of the
3 United States between the visually impaired and civil
4 engineering communities; and

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6 WHEREAS, roundabouts are considered not to be suitable for
7 freeways; and

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9 WHEREAS, for junctions with a high traffic volume they are
10 not suitable because congested traffic in one direction would
11 quickly block a roundabout and impair traffic in all other
12 directions; and

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14 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that an objective, reasoned
15 examination of issues by knowledgeable traffic engineers and
16 safety personnel relating to the costs and safety aspects of
17 roundabouts would assist its members in resolving this matter;
18 now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
22 Session of 2007, that the Department of Transportation is
23 requested to report to the Legislature on the costs of and the
24 safety issues related to traffic roundabouts; and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
27 Transportation is requested to include in the study the
28 following:

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30 (1) The costs of building a roundabout and the costs of
31 implementing the widespread use of roundabouts in
32 Hawaii;
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34 (2) Comparing the costs of a roundabout with currently
35 used traffic guidance systems, such as an
36 intersection;
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38 (3) The safety of all parties involved in the use of
39 traffic roundabouts, such as motorists, motorcycle
40 riders, moped drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists;
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42 (4) How to implement roundabouts into the traffic guidance
43 system without endangering the visually impaired and
44 bicyclists; and



(5) Any additional issues and concerns that the Department of Transportation sees arising by the use of roundabouts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, not later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of Transportation.

OFFERED BY:

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Pat 2

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