

JAN 24 2007

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY INNOVATIVE
TECHNOLOGIES AND MODELS FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT SERVICES AND
INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE METHODS TO AID IN TRAFFIC
CONGESTION RELIEF.

1 WHEREAS, the demand for efficient public transit services
2 rises as the state population increases; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the *State Transportation Statistics*
5 2005 published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, of the
6 575,045 workers in Hawaii in 2004, 68.4 per cent traveled alone
7 by car or truck, 16.4 per cent carpooled, 5.5 per cent used
8 public transportation, and 1.8 per cent traveled by taxicab or
9 motorcycle to work; and
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11 WHEREAS, during the week days, only a small percentage of
12 Hawaii's workforce that needs to commute to work are using
13 public transit services, and are instead adding to highway and
14 road congestion and spending more time on the road; and
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16 WHEREAS, roadway congestion in Hawaii, especially on Oahu,
17 is a growing problem that increases as more commuters decide to
18 drive their cars to work rather than use public transit
19 services, which can save time and money; and
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21 WHEREAS, the senior citizen population in Hawaii is also
22 increasing, which adds to the demand for better and more
23 efficient transit services to accommodate their transportation
24 needs; and
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26 WHEREAS, under section 26-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the
27 Department of Transportation is required to develop, promote,
28 and coordinate various transportation systems management
29 programs that include alternate work and school hours programs,
30 bicycling programs, and ridesharing programs; and
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1 WHEREAS, investigating and studying alternative
2 transportation systems is part of the Department's
3 responsibility to develop, promote, and coordinate various
4 transportation systems management programs; and
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6 WHEREAS, investigating the current trends of Hawaii's
7 traffic congestion and exploring alternative methods for
8 congestion relief will also assist the Department in studying
9 alternative transportation systems in Hawaii, including improved
10 public transit services; and
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12 WHEREAS, new and innovative technologies and models are
13 available for the transit industry to improve and diversify its
14 services, such as global positioning systems, wireless
15 technology, and computer software; and
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17 WHEREAS, better organization and consolidation of the
18 transit routes, flexible transit schedules, and an expanded
19 range of fare options can better accommodate commuters and
20 create public transit as a more attractive and economically
21 feasible alternative; and
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23 WHEREAS, as a result, commuters will be able to leave their
24 cars at home, lessen traffic congestion, save money that would
25 have been spent for gasoline, and speed up their commute times;
26 now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
31 Transportation is urged to study new and innovative technologies
32 and models for public transit services, and investigate
33 alternative methods to aid in the relief of traffic congestion
34 on roads in Hawaii; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
37 Transportation is requested to consult with the Public Utilities
38 Commission, the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the
39 counties to:
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- 41 (1) Investigate and study the current status of the
42 traffic congestion problem statewide;
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- (2) Explore alternative methods to aid in the relief of traffic congestion;
- (3) Identify new and innovative available technologies and models that have the potential to be beneficial to Hawaii's public transit services;
- (4) Review current public transit activities, technologies, and models and policies, and evaluate their effectiveness;
- (5) Review other jurisdictions' activities, technologies, and models and policies to derive the best practice models therefrom;
- (6) Evaluate the feasibility of adopting new and innovative technologies and models; and
- (7) Establish findings and develop recommendations on how the State can improve and create more efficient public transit services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation; the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission; the Executive Director of the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization; the Director of the Transportation Services Department, City and County of Honolulu; the Administrator of the Mass Transit Agency, County of Hawaii; the Administrator of the Transportation Agency, County of Kauai; and the Director of the Department of Transportation, County of Maui.

OFFERED BY: Shoanne Chun O'Alulana

