

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2094

Honolulu, Hawaii

Aj 23, 2007

RE: S.C.R. No. 138

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2007  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred  
S.C.R. No. 138 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION TO IMPLEMENT XERISCAPING TO DECORATE ROADWAYS,  
MEDIAL STRIPS, ROUNDABOUTS AND OTHER AREAS UNDER ITS  
JURISDICTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this concurrent resolution is to urge the  
Department of Transportation (DOT) to implement xeriscaping to  
decorate roadways, medial strips, roundabouts, and other areas  
under its jurisdiction.

DOT testified in support of this measure.

Xeriscaping is an environmentally friendly method of  
landscaping that uses drought-tolerant plants in conjunction with  
irrigation techniques to allow for the minimal use of water while  
maintaining an attractive landscape. This type of landscaping  
also requires little maintenance. DOT's use of this type of  
landscaping to decorate roadways, medial strips, roundabouts, and  
other areas along Hawaii's roadways will provide environmentally  
friendly beautification while decreasing the strain on DOT with  
regard to landscape maintenance.

SCR138 HSCR TRN HMS 2007-3899



Your Committee notes, however, that landscaping of areas alongside roadways also may cause the State to incur liability costs should landscaping and maintenance be found to have contributed to a motor vehicle collision. Therefore, your Committee also urges DOT to be cognizant of this issue and encourages DOT to use landscape architects, in conjunction with engineers, to study landscape designs and plan accordingly when using xeriscaping techniques to avoid future litigation and liability.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 138 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Transportation,

  
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JOSEPH M. SOUKI, Chair



