
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY TRAFFIC ACCESS TO WAIANAE COAST.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the eighty thousand
2 residents of the Waianae Coast have long suffered from
3 inadequate traffic access into various areas on the leeward
4 coast and out to central Oahu and beyond, especially in times of
5 emergency. For example, in January 2000, a hostage situation on
6 Farrington Highway in Nanakuli left thousands of leeward coast
7 residents stranded for hours while police negotiated with the
8 suspect. In May 2000, a burst water main that collapsed a
9 section of Farrington Highway caused another massive traffic jam
10 on Memorial Day. In August 2005, brush fires ravaged mountains
11 and valleys in Nanakuli, closing Farrington Highway twice,
12 cutting off access to and from the Waianae Coast for several
13 hours in the morning and again at night. In March 2006, twelve
14 electric utility poles were blown down by unusually high winds
15 in Nanakuli, causing more than a day's traffic congestion and
16 affecting all four lanes on Farrington Highway as electric
17 company crews closed lanes to replace the utility poles. Again
18 in December 2007, heavy winds and rains damaged at least thirty-



1 six electric utility poles and downed electrical lines in
2 Nanakuli and Maili, causing some lane closures on Farrington
3 Highway as workers repaired the damage.

4 During some emergencies in the past, the public was
5 permitted to use the four-mile Kolekole Pass, which runs through
6 the United States Naval Magazine at Lualualei over the Waianae
7 Range and connects Schofield Barracks, as a detour route to and
8 from the Waianae Coast. Kolekole Pass, constructed in 1937 by
9 army engineers, is an unimproved road on military property with
10 no street lights or shoulders in some areas. Civilian access to
11 Kolekole Pass is difficult and complicated as coordination
12 involving major security issues governing both Lualualei and
13 Schofield Barracks is required with military officials who
14 control access to the restricted area. Prior to the temporary
15 opening of the Kolekole Pass to civilian traffic during the
16 August 2005 brush fires in Nanakuli, civilians were similarly
17 allowed to use the road in July 2003, when a police officer and
18 a child were killed and five other people were injured in a
19 head-on collision that closed all four lanes of Farrington
20 Highway.

21 The legislature finds that the planned use of Kolekole Pass
22 during emergencies is unreasonable and impractical. A more



1 feasible alternate route in and out of the Waianae Coast lies in
2 widening the path around Kaena Point to accommodate vehicular
3 traffic that will allow a single lane of traffic to move in
4 either direction.

5 The purpose of this Act is to open up Kaena Point to
6 establish a single lane of traffic in either direction to
7 provide access to the residents of the Waianae Coast during
8 emergency incidents when Farrington Highway is closed down,
9 preventing residents from going to and from work and returning
10 home.

11 SECTION 2. **Kaena Point emergency alternate access road;**
12 **department of transportation; plan, design, and construct;**
13 **annual reports to legislature.** (a) The department of
14 transportation shall plan, design, and construct an emergency
15 alternate access road into and out of the Waianae Coast in
16 leeward Oahu around Kaena Point to allow one lane of traffic
17 going in either direction. The department's plan shall include
18 at least the following:

- 19 (1) A description of the geographic area affected by the
20 planned construction;
- 21 (2) Any requirements for invoking eminent domain to
22 acquire rights-of-way to construct the access road;



- 1 (3) Estimated total cost of the project;
- 2 (4) Estimated timeline of the project; and
- 3 (5) Any other relevant items deemed appropriate or
- 4 necessary by the director of transportation.

5 (b) The department of transportation shall begin
6 construction of the access road no later than .

7 (c) The director of transportation shall report annually
8 on the progress of the construction project, including findings,
9 recommendations, and any necessary proposed legislation, to the
10 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
11 the regular sessions of 2009 and each regular session thereafter
12 until completion of the project.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for plans,
16 design, and construction of an emergency alternate access road
17 into and out of the Waianae Coast in leeward Oahu around Kaena
18 Point to allow one lane of traffic going in either direction.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 transportation for the purposes of this Act.



H.B. NO. 2802

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
2 except that section 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

3

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]
JAN 21 2008



Report Title:

Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road; Kaena Point; Appropriation

Description:

Requires department of transportation to open 1 lane in each direction at Kaena Point on the Waianae Coast to provide traffic access during emergencies. Requires start of construction no later than . Appropriation.

