
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY
HAWAII SUSTAINABLE INTERISLAND TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, the Governor, in conjunction with the Hawaii
2 Harbor Users Group and with the support of leadership of the
3 Legislature, recently announced a harbor improvements initiative
4 costing \$842,000,000 over the next six years, to be financed by
5 state funds and bonds, for modification and expansion to
6 facilitate twenty-five or more years of growth, consumer demand,
7 and changes in user needs; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the state harbors improvements initiative creates
10 significant opportunities for achieving a more efficient and
11 higher-capacity statewide system of interisland transportation,
12 but also creates significant environmental, cultural, social,
13 and economic impacts that the State needs to assess, address,
14 mitigate, or avoid through a systematic environmental review
15 with measures identified to best address, mitigate, or avoid
16 impacts and to enforce a statewide sustainability permitting
17 scheme; and

18
19 WHEREAS, a strong consensus emerged from the testimony of
20 many members of the Legislature, interisland transportation
21 stakeholders, and the public during the 2007 Special Session on
22 the large capacity interisland ferry issue that much greater
23 attention must be paid to early assessment and mitigation of the
24 adverse environmental, cultural, economic, and social impacts of
25 our State's changing and growing interisland transportation
26 systems, as well as to achieving higher and equitable standards
27 in operating conditions among various interisland transportation
28 modes; and

29
30 WHEREAS, the Polynesian people arrived in the Hawaiian
31 Islands more than two thousand years ago by canoe, with
32 sophisticated navigation techniques, and developed a sustainable
33 life both on and among the islands, offering a cultural history



1 that provides guidance to modern residents of Hawaii on how to
2 achieve a sustainable interisland transportation system; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the State is unique among the United States as the
5 only all-island state, completely surrounded by the Pacific
6 Ocean, necessitating interisland transportation by air or water,
7 and is more than two thousand five hundred miles from the United
8 States mainland and Asia, creating critical issues of dependence
9 on air and water transportation systems; and

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11 WHEREAS, the State needs a robust, environmentally
12 sustainable, efficient, diverse, secure, and affordable system
13 of interisland transportation to meet both public and private
14 needs of its businesses, residents, and visitors; and

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16 WHEREAS, the proposed state harbors improvements
17 initiative, the large capacity interisland ferry controversy,
18 concerns about cruise ship pollution, volatility in interisland
19 airline services, and increasing attention to carbon emission
20 and impacts of transportation systems on global warming
21 demonstrate the need for a comprehensive review and integrated
22 regulation of all methods, existing and proposed, of interisland
23 transportation to ensure fair but coordinated regulation of the
24 various modes and operators so that short-term, long-term,
25 cumulative, and secondary impacts are considered prior to
26 commitments to major expansion or modifications of such systems;
27 and

28
29 WHEREAS, the proposed state harbors improvements initiative
30 should undergo a programmatic environmental review prior to
31 preferred alternatives for site-specific projects being
32 selected; and

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34 WHEREAS, in the transportation context, the scope of the
35 current environmental review process should be broadened to
36 include sustainability - the so-called "triple bottom line" of
37 environment, economy, and social needs; and

38
39 WHEREAS, a current weakness in the environmental review
40 process under chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is that it
41 does not ensure that appropriate mitigation measures to reduce
42 adverse impacts are incorporated into enforceable operating or
43 pollution control permits, nor has it consistently been applied
44 by state agencies who are considering projects such as harbor



1 improvements that will facilitate major interisland
2 transportation projects; and

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4 WHEREAS, the work and report of the twenty-five member
5 Hawaii 2050 Task Force (Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii
6 2005) provided valuable expertise and stakeholder input on the
7 importance of achieving a more sustainable future for our State,
8 which must now be implemented and put into action to make a
9 meaningful difference for future generations who inherit the
10 impact of the decisions that we make today for these islands;
11 and

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13 WHEREAS, given all of these considerations, the State must
14 seize this unique opportunity to focus public attention and
15 expertise on planning for and achieving a sustainable state
16 interisland transportation system; now, therefore,

17

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
20 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Office of
21 Planning is requested to establish a temporary Hawaii
22 Sustainable Interisland Transportation Task Force; and

23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sustainable
25 Interisland Transportation Task Force be composed of twenty
26 members, as follows:

27

- 28 (1) One member of the Senate, to be selected by the
29 President of the Senate;
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- 31 (2) One member of the House of Representatives, to be
32 selected by the Speaker of the House of
33 Representatives;
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- 35 (3) The Director of the Office of Planning or the
36 Director's designee;
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- 38 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
39 Resources or the Chairperson's designee;
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- 41 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture or the
42 Chairperson's designee;
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- 1 (6) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
2 designee;
- 3
- 4 (7) A representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to
5 be designated by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- 6
- 7 (8) Three representatives of the Hawaii Harbor Users
8 Group, to be designated by the Hawaii Harbor Users
9 Group, including one representative each from the
10 cruise line, ferry, and cargo industries; provided
11 that the representatives of the Hawaii Harbor Users
12 group shall not participate in the Task Force for the
13 air transportation report;
- 14
- 15 (9) Three air transportation representatives from the
16 three largest interisland carriers, with one
17 representative to be selected by the President of the
18 Senate, one representative to be selected by the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one
20 representative to be selected by the Governor;
21 provided that the air transportation representatives
22 shall not participate in the Task Force for the water
23 transportation report;
- 24
- 25 (10) Three representatives of the environmental community
26 that represent major environmental organizations, with
27 one representative to be selected by the President of
28 the Senate, one representative to be selected by the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one
30 representative to be selected by the Governor; and
- 31
- 32 (11) Four representatives of the Hawaii 2050 Task Force,
33 with expertise and interest in sustainable planning,
34 to be designated by the Chairperson of the Hawaii 2050
35 Task Force; and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the foregoing entities
38 are requested to submit the name of their designated
39 representative and an alternate to the Office of Planning no
40 later than August 15, 2008; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sustainable
43 Interisland Transportation Task Force is requested to:
44



- 1 (1) Study the environmental, economic, and social impacts
2 of existing state interisland transportation systems;
3
- 4 (2) Assess proposed changes to the State's interisland
5 transportation systems for the next twenty-five years;
6
- 7 (3) Recommend specific, consistent, effective, and
8 equitable mitigation measures to ensure optimum
9 sustainable operations and minimum adverse impacts;
10
- 11 (4) Recommend legislative measures, if any, to establish a
12 new regulatory state permit system to ensure
13 equitable, enforceable, and adaptable state oversight
14 over the environmental, cultural, social, and economic
15 impact of these transportation systems, consistent
16 with federal laws affecting such systems; and
17
- 18 (5) Identify the most appropriate existing or new entity
19 to administer the new permit system, including but not
20 limited to, consideration of the Public Utilities
21 Commission as the appropriate regulatory entity; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scope of work for the
24 Hawaii Sustainable Interisland Transportation Task Force are
25 requested to include:

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- 27 (1) Ensuring the sustainability and protection of the
28 State's indigenous marine resources (for example,
29 whales, turtles, dolphins, and coral reefs) and
30 indigenous terrestrial resources (for example, native
31 plants, insects, birds, and mammals) from the adverse
32 impacts of interisland transportation;
33
- 34 (2) Protecting local diversified agriculture, native
35 ecosystems, and public health from the adverse effects
36 of invasive and alien species that can be introduced,
37 spread, and facilitated by interisland transportation;
38
- 39 (3) Mitigating and minimizing the traffic and pedestrian
40 impacts on all islands from the off-loading and
41 on-loading of vehicles and cargo, including visitors
42 using rental cars, from interisland transportation;
43

- 1 (4) Protecting the following, which depend on healthy
2 local natural ecosystems, the protection of public
3 natural resources and protected areas, sensible limits
4 on access, and effective law enforcement:
5
6 (A) Traditional and customary rights of Native
7 Hawaiians;
8
9 (B) Sustainable local subsistence, recreational
10 fishing, hunting, and harvesting practices; and
11
12 (C) Wilderness recreation opportunities of island
13 residents;
14
15 (5) Minimizing the contributions of the State's
16 interisland transportation systems to climate change
17 and promoting the State's energy independency by
18 reducing fossil fuel consumption and emissions of
19 greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, from
20 various interisland transportation operations; and
21
22 (6) Conducting an integrated, strategic, and comprehensive
23 assessment of the issues delineated by this Act to
24 ensure maximum positive benefit and to minimize the
25 adverse effects of transportation systems on
26 environmental, cultural, social, and economic values
27 statewide; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
30 requested to convene the first meeting of the Hawaii Sustainable
31 Interisland Transportation Task Force no later than September
32 15, 2008, and thereafter no less than once every two months; and
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Sustainable
35 Interisland Transportation Task Force may utilize the resources
36 of an expert facilitator for its meetings and for preparing the
37 report, as well as the resources of the Office of Planning; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
40 requested to conduct informational briefings on each of the
41 Neighbor Islands as well as Oahu on each draft report; actively
42 solicit comments from the public, fully record the proceedings,
43 and incorporate the comments into the each final report; and

1 maintain publicly accessible records of the Task Force meetings
2 and public briefings; and
3

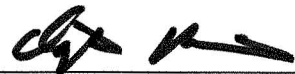
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is
5 requested to submit a report of findings, recommendations, and
6 proposed legislation to the Legislature and Governor no later
7 than twenty days before the convening of the regular session of
8 2010, and submit further recommendations to the Legislature:
9

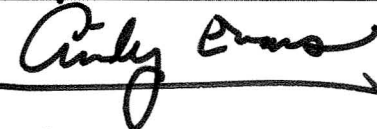
10 (1) On water transportation no later than September 31,
11 2010; and
12

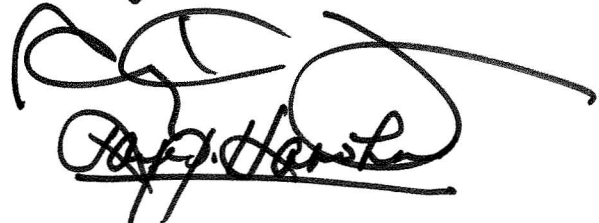
13 (2) On air transportation no later than September 31,
14 2012; and
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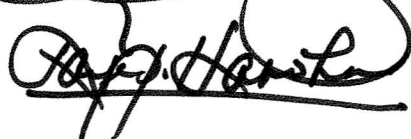
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
18 Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
19 Governor, the Director of the Office of Planning, the
20 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the
21 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Director of
22 Transportation, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Hawaii
23 Harbor Users Group, and the Chairperson of the Hawaii 2050 Task
24 Force.
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OFFERED BY:









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