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# 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 (Initiative) costing \$842,000,000 over the next six years, and  
5 financed by state funds and bonds, to modify and expand  
6 facilities to accommodate twenty-five or more years of growth,  
7 consumer demand, and changes in user needs; and  
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9           WHEREAS, while the Initiative creates significant  
10 opportunities for achieving a more efficient and higher-capacity  
11 statewide system of interisland transportation, it also creates  
12 significant environmental, cultural, social, and economic  
13 impacts that the State must assess, address, mitigate, or avoid  
14 through a systematic environmental review with identifiable  
15 measures to best address, mitigate, or avoid those impacts and  
16 to enforce a statewide sustainability permitting scheme; and  
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18           WHEREAS, a strong consensus emerged from the testimony of  
19 many members of the Legislature, interisland transportation  
20 stakeholders, and the public during the 2007 Special Session on  
21 the large capacity interisland ferry issue that much greater  
22 attention must be paid to early assessment and mitigation of the  
23 adverse environmental, cultural, economic, and social impacts of  
24 our State's changing and growing interisland transportation  
25 systems, as well as to achieving higher and equitable standards  
26 in operating conditions among various interisland transportation  
27 modes; and  
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29           WHEREAS, the Polynesian people arrived in the Hawaiian  
30 Islands more than 2,000 years ago by canoe, with sophisticated  
31 navigation techniques, and developed a sustainable life both on  
32 and among the islands, offering a cultural history that provides



1 guidance to modern residents of Hawaii on how to achieve a  
2 sustainable interisland transportation system; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Hawaii is unique among the United States (U.S.) as  
5 the only all-island state, necessitating interisland  
6 transportation by air or water, and is more than 2,500 hundred  
7 miles from the U.S. mainland and Asia, creating critical issues  
8 of dependence on air and water transportation systems; and  
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10 WHEREAS, the State needs a robust, environmentally  
11 sustainable, efficient, diverse, secure, and affordable system  
12 of interisland transportation to meet both public and private  
13 needs of its businesses, residents, and visitors; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the proposed Initiative, the large capacity  
16 interisland ferry controversy, concerns about cruise ship  
17 pollution, volatility in interisland airline services, and  
18 increasing attention to carbon emission and impacts of  
19 transportation systems on global warming demonstrate the need  
20 for a comprehensive review and integrated regulation of all  
21 methods, existing and proposed, of interisland transportation to  
22 ensure fair but coordinated regulation of the various modes and  
23 operators so that short-term, long-term, cumulative, and  
24 secondary impacts are considered prior to commitments to major  
25 expansion or modifications of such systems; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, the proposed Initiative should undergo a  
28 programmatic environmental review prior to preferred  
29 alternatives for site-specific projects being selected; and  
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31 WHEREAS, in the transportation context, the scope of the  
32 current environmental review process should be broadened to  
33 include sustainability--the so-called "triple bottom line" of  
34 environment, economy, and social needs; and  
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36 WHEREAS, a current weakness in the environmental review  
37 process under Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is that it  
38 does not ensure that appropriate mitigation measures to reduce  
39 adverse impacts are incorporated into enforceable operating or  
40 pollution control permits, nor has it consistently been applied  
41 by state agencies who are considering projects such as harbor  
42 improvements that will facilitate major interisland  
43 transportation projects; and



1 WHEREAS, the work and report of the 25-member Hawaii 2050  
2 Task Force (Act 8, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2005) provided  
3 valuable expertise and stakeholder input on the importance of  
4 achieving a more sustainable future for our State, which must  
5 now be implemented and put into action to make a meaningful  
6 difference for future generations who inherit the impact of the  
7 decisions that we make today for these islands; and  
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9 WHEREAS, given all of these considerations, the State must  
10 seize this unique opportunity to focus public attention and  
11 expertise on planning for and achieving a sustainable state  
12 interisland transportation system; now, therefore,  
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
15 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
16 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that the Office of  
17 Planning is requested to establish a temporary Hawaii  
18 Sustainable Interisland Transportation Task Force (Task Force);  
19 and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be composed of  
22 20 members, as follows:  
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- 24 (1) One member of the Senate, to be selected by the  
25 President of the Senate;  
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- 27 (2) One member of the House of Representatives, to be  
28 selected by the Speaker of the House of  
29 Representatives;  
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- 31 (3) The Director of the Office of Planning or the  
32 Director's designee;  
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- 34 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
35 Resources or the Chairperson's designee;  
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- 37 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture or the  
38 Chairperson's designee;  
39
- 40 (6) The Director of Transportation or the Director's  
41 designee;  
42
- 43 (7) A representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to  
44 be designated by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;



1  
 2 (8) Three representatives of the Hawaii Harbor Users  
 3 Group, to be designated by the Hawaii Harbor Users  
 4 Group, including one representative each from the  
 5 cruise line, ferry, and cargo industries; provided  
 6 that the representatives of the Hawaii Harbor Users  
 7 group shall not participate in the Task Force for the  
 8 air transportation report;

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 10 (9) Three air transportation representatives from the  
 11 three largest interisland carriers, with one  
 12 representative to be selected by the President of the  
 13 Senate, one representative to be selected by the  
 14 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one  
 15 representative to be selected by the Governor;  
 16 provided that the air transportation representatives  
 17 shall not participate in the Task Force for the water  
 18 transportation report;

19  
 20 (10) Three representatives of the environmental community  
 21 that represent major environmental organizations, with  
 22 one representative to be selected by the President of  
 23 the Senate, one representative to be selected by the  
 24 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one  
 25 representative to be selected by the Governor; and

26  
 27 (11) Four representatives of the Hawaii 2050 Task Force,  
 28 with expertise and interest in sustainable planning,  
 29 to be designated by the Chairperson of the Hawaii 2050  
 30 Task Force;

31  
 32 and

33  
 34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each of the foregoing entities  
 35 are requested to submit the name of their designated  
 36 representative and an alternate to the Office of Planning no  
 37 later than August 15, 2008; and

38  
 39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to:

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 41 (1) Study the environmental, economic, and social impacts  
 42 of existing state interisland transportation systems;

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- 1 (2) Assess proposed changes to the State's interisland  
2 transportation systems for the next 25 years;
- 3
- 4 (3) Recommend specific, consistent, effective, and  
5 equitable mitigation measures to ensure optimum  
6 sustainable operations and minimum adverse impacts;
- 7
- 8 (4) Recommend legislative measures, if any, to establish a  
9 new regulatory state permit system to ensure  
10 equitable, enforceable, and adaptable state oversight  
11 over the environmental, cultural, social, and economic  
12 impact of these transportation systems, consistent  
13 with federal laws affecting such systems;
- 14
- 15 (5) Identify the most appropriate existing or new entity  
16 to administer the new permit system, including  
17 consideration of the Public Utilities Commission as  
18 the appropriate regulatory entity; and
- 19
- 20 (6) Take into consideration, and work in consistency with,  
21 the Hawaii State Plan, specifically section 226-17,  
22 Hawaii Revised Statutes;

23  
24 and

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scope of work for the Task  
27 Force are requested to include:

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



1  
2 (4) Protecting the following, which depend on healthy  
3 local natural ecosystems, the protection of public  
4 natural resources and protected areas, sensible limits  
5 on access, and effective law enforcement:

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7 (A) Traditional and customary rights of native  
8 Hawaiians;

9  
10 (B) Sustainable local subsistence, recreational  
11 fishing, hunting, and harvesting practices; and

12  
13 (C) Wilderness recreation opportunities of island  
14 residents;

15  
16 (5) Minimizing the contributions of the State's  
17 interisland transportation systems to climate change  
18 and promoting the State's energy independency by  
19 reducing fossil fuel consumption and emissions of  
20 greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, from  
21 various interisland transportation operations;

22  
23 (6) Conducting an integrated, strategic, and comprehensive  
24 assessment of the issues delineated by this concurrent  
25 resolution to ensure maximum positive benefit and to  
26 minimize the adverse effects of transportation systems  
27 on environmental, cultural, social, and economic  
28 values statewide;

29  
30 (7) Ensuring that the flow of commerce is not impeded; and

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32 (8) Ensuring economic feasibility for a sustainable,  
33 multi-modal, inter-island transportation system;

34  
35 and

36  
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
38 requested to convene the first meeting of the Task Force no  
39 later than September 15, 2008, and thereafter no fewer than once  
40 every two months; and

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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force may use the  
43 resources of an expert facilitator for its meetings and for



1 preparing the report, as well as the resources of the Office of  
2 Planning; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
5 requested to:

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7 (1) Conduct informational briefings on each of the  
8 Neighbor Islands, as well as Oahu, on each draft  
9 report;

10

11 (2) Actively solicit comments from the public, fully  
12 record the proceedings, and incorporate the comments  
13 into the each final report; and

14

15 (3) Maintain publicly accessible records of the Task Force  
16 meetings and public briefings;

17

18 and

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is  
21 requested to submit a report of findings, recommendations, and  
22 proposed legislation to the Legislature and Governor no later  
23 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
24 2010, and submit further recommendations to the Legislature:

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26 (1) On water transportation no later than September 31,  
27 2010; and

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29 (2) On air transportation no later than September 31,  
30 2012;

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32 and

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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
36 of the Office of Planning, Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
37 Natural Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture,  
38 Director of Transportation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the  
39 Hawaii Harbor Users Group, and Chairperson of the Hawaii 2050  
40 Task Force.

