
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE MAUI COUNTY CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY TO PREPARE A
DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLAN TO MAINTAIN CONTINUED
TRANSPORTATION ACCESS ALONG THE HANA HIGHWAY, INCLUDING ITS
ONE-LANE BRIDGES, DURING CATASTROPHIC EVENTS.

1 WHEREAS, it is critical for the safety, health, and well-
2 being of residents of rural areas in the State, particularly
3 those areas where access is restricted to single-lane roads
4 served by numerous bridges, that transportation be maintained in
5 anticipation of catastrophic events such as earthquakes and
6 flooding; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii experienced two large seismic events on
9 October 15, 2006, that caused electrical blackouts and
10 disruption to transportation in various areas of the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, on the island of Maui, especially on the road
13 between Hana and Kipahulu on the southeastern side of the
14 island, several bridges on the one-lane road were damaged when
15 the earthquakes fractured rock foundations beneath the bridges;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, Paihi Bridge on the Hana Highway had to be closed
19 and replaced with a temporary bridge, and military helicopters
20 had to make deliveries of food, water, and fuel to residents
21 affected by the shutdown of the bridge; and
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23 WHEREAS, during the summer of 2007, a landslide and heavy
24 rains caused flooding that closed the temporary bridge for two
25 months; and
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27 WHEREAS, according to a 2006 United States Department of
28 Transportation assessment, forty-six per cent of Hawaii's
29 bridges (513 of 1,110) are classified substandard, of which 156
30 are classified structurally deficient and 357 are classified



H.C.R. NO. 361

1 functionally obsolete, ranking Hawaii as the third worst in the
2 nation; and

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4 WHEREAS, a substandard classification does not necessarily
5 mean that bridges are unsafe, and certain bridges will never be
6 brought up to current federal standards; for example, there is
7 no practicable way to provide two-lane access to the more than
8 fifty bridges along the one-lane Hana Highway; and

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10 WHEREAS, as experiences with the earthquakes of 2006 and
11 the landslide and heavy rains during 2007 have nevertheless
12 shown, the Maui County Civil Defense Agency needs to take
13 precautionary measures to maintain continued access to the
14 numerous communities served by the Hana Highway and its many
15 one-lane bridges in the event of a catastrophic event; now,
16 therefore,

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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 Maui County
21 Civil Defense Agency is requested to prepare a disaster
22 contingency plan to maintain continued transportation access
23 along the Hana Highway, including the one-lane bridges along the
24 highway, in the event of catastrophic events such as
25 earthquakes, landslides, or heavy rain and flooding; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maui County Civil Defense
28 Agency is requested to include in the contingency plan the
29 following:

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31 (1) Identification of potential catastrophic events that
32 may impair transportation access along Hana Highway;

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34 (2) Feasible plans and actions that can be implemented in
35 preparation and anticipation of each type of
36 catastrophic event, such as seismic retrofitting work
37 to strengthen the one-lane bridges and procurement of
38 Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, plans for
39 alternate routes, and plans for state-county liaison
40 and interagency cooperation;

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42 (3) Actions to be taken during a catastrophic event; and

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1 (4) Follow-up actions to be taken after a catastrophic
2 event; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Council of
5 Maui County are requested to cooperate with the administrator of
6 the Maui County Civil Defense Agency on the preparation of the
7 disaster contingency plan; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maui County Civil Defense
10 Agency is requested to submit a report of its findings and
11 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
13 the Regular Session of 2009; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and members of
17 the Council of Maui County and to the Civil Defense
18 Administrator for Maui County.
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OFFERED BY: Mele Carroll
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