
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A SCENIC BYWAYS WORKING GROUP TO SELECT POSSIBLE SITES STATEWIDE, INCLUDING THE PI`ILANI TRAIL ON MAUI, FOR PROPOSED FEDERAL DESIGNATION AS SCENIC BYWAYS.

1 WHEREAS, scenic byways are recognized as roads that
2 incorporate and reflect noteworthy natural, historic, and
3 cultural features of an area; and
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5 WHEREAS, these scenic byways afford visitors a pleasurable
6 experience as they travel the byways, while the economies of the
7 local communities within which these byways are situated benefit
8 reciprocally from visitor activity; and
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10 WHEREAS, Congress established the National Scenic Byways
11 Program (Byways Program) in 1991 under the Intermodal Surface
12 Transportation Efficiency Act and the Transportation Equity Act
13 for the 21st Century; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Byways Program is a voluntary program designed
16 to help states protect and promote their scenic roads by which
17 states apply for funding from the Federal Highway Administration
18 (FHA) of the United States Department of Transportation and
19 submit nominations of certain roads for designation as scenic
20 byways by the FHA; and
21

22 WHEREAS, for example, the state Department of
23 Transportation (DOT) initiated the North Kona Heritage Corridor
24 Project on the Big Island with community input as a first step
25 to establishing a state scenic byway designation for that area;
26 and
27

28 WHEREAS, in the early years of the 16th century, Pi`ilani
29 Makua, the king of Maui, and his son, Kiha-a-Pi`ilani,
30 constructed within a span of about five years a pathway uniting
31 west and east Maui known as Alanui-Kike`eke`e-a-Maui, or the
32 winding pathway of Maui, which proceeded clockwise around the
33 northern coast of west Maui across the isthmus to Haleakala
34 Mountain; and



1
2 WHEREAS, an 18-mile stretch of the pathway from Honokowai
3 to Kahakuloa, known as Na Hono-a-Pi`ilani, or the Pi`ilani
4 Trail, connects the six sacred bays of Pi`ilani, each with
5 distinct Hawaiian names that reflect their uniqueness; and

6
7 WHEREAS, the six sacred bays of Pi`ilani consist of:

- 8
9 (1) Honokowai bay, or the "watering bay," which is a long,
10 slight curve of calcareous beach sandstone, hard as
11 rock, that extends into the sea about three feet deep;
12
13 (2) Honokeana bay, or the "cave bay," which is a deep,
14 boxy recess where the sea has eroded a bed of red ash,
15 coloring the water a murky red;
16
17 (3) Honokahua bay, or the "sites bay," which is a
18 beautiful, peaceful, open, sandy beach now known as
19 Kapalua that is a closed semicircular shape with long
20 waves washing far up on the shore, ringed with palm
21 trees and jutting black lava rock;
22
23 (4) Honolua bay, or "two harbors bay," which lies along
24 the coast where winds are brisk and ironwood trees
25 form windbreaks that bring fragrance to the air as
26 their soft needles cushion the ground;
27
28 (5) Honokohau bay, or "bay drawing dew bay," which lies at
29 the mouth of Honokohau Stream, Maui's longest stream,
30 where the surface of the land slopes into the sea to
31 meet Molokai. The nearly inaccessible waterfall at
32 the head of Honokohau Stream drops 1,690 feet, making
33 it the sixth tallest waterfall in the world and the
34 second tallest in the nation after Yosemite in
35 California; and
36
37 (6) Hononana bay, or "animated bay," which lies at the
38 mouth of Hononana gulch where nearby rests a boulder
39 alongside the road called Pohakukani, the "bell
40 stone," which when struck with a rock, sounds like the
41 ringing of a massive bell, but with a metallic timbre;

42 and
43



1 WHEREAS, the community is interested in designating the 18-
2 mile Pi`ilani Trail as a scenic byway, to preserve the area and
3 to provide access for the public; and
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5 WHEREAS, funding assistance is required to continually
6 maintain scenic byways and to preserve their accessibility to
7 the public; and
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9 WHEREAS, it is unrealistic during the current local,
10 national, and global economic downturn to draw on state general
11 funds to support worthwhile scenic byways projects; however, the
12 FHA administers a fund to provide assistance to states whose
13 projects qualify according to federal guidelines; now,
14 therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
17 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
18 of 2009, that the Office of the Governor is requested to direct
19 DOT to convene a Scenic Byways Working Group to select possible
20 sites statewide, including the Pi`ilani Trail on Maui, for
21 proposed federal designation as scenic byways and to develop the
22 federally required corridor management plan, as defined in
23 the Byways Program Interim Policy; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
26 requested to direct DOT to include in the Scenic Byways Working
27 Group representatives from DOT, the Department of Land and
28 Natural Resources, the Department of Business, Economic
29 Development, and Tourism, relevant county agencies, and
30 community groups residing in areas where proposed scenic byways
31 are located; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
34 requested to direct DOT to consult with and invite
35 representatives from the FHA and any other relevant federal
36 agency to participate in the deliberations of the Scenic Byways
37 Working Group; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
40 requested to direct DOT to act upon the findings and
41 recommendations of the Scenic Byways Working Group by submitting
42 to the FHA:
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- 1 (1) Nominations of roads selected by the Working Group for
- 2 designation as scenic byways; and
- 3
- 4 (2) Applications for federal funding to support the
- 5 promotion, maintenance, and repair of these roads;
- 6

7 and

8

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is

10 requested to direct DOT to report to the Legislature no later

11 than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of

12 2010, on the progress of the Scenic Byways Working Group and the

13 status of any application to the FHA for funding and to

14 designate selected roads of the state as scenic byways; and

15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Directors of

18 Transportation and Business, Economic Development, and Tourism,

19 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, mayor

20 and chairperson of the council of each county, Administrator of

21 the Federal Highway Administration, and members of Hawaii's

22 congressional delegation.

