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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CHANGE THE  
REQUIRED MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONS CARRIED IN A MOTOR  
VEHICLE WHILE TRAVELING ON A HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANE  
FROM THREE TO TWO PASSENGERS.

1           WHEREAS, according to section 291C-221, Hawaii Revised  
2 Statutes, a high occupancy vehicle lane means a designated lane  
3 of a laned roadway where the use of the designated lane is  
4 restricted to school buses, vehicles carrying at least the  
5 minimum number of persons designated by the Director of  
6 Transportation on official signs and other official traffic-  
7 control devices, and other vehicles as provided by rules or by  
8 county ordinance; and

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10           WHEREAS, according to section 19-108-2, Hawaii  
11 Administrative Rules, a zipper lane means a barrier-separated  
12 high occupancy vehicle lane; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, the original minimum number of persons required to  
15 be carried in a motor vehicle while traveling on a high  
16 occupancy vehicle lane was three persons, but was reduced to two  
17 in 2005 after residents complained that these lanes were being  
18 underused; and

19  
20           WHEREAS, in July 2008, the Department of Transportation  
21 increased the minimum number of required persons allowed in the  
22 zipper lane from two passengers to three due to the increased  
23 cost of gasoline and in order to remove cars from the general  
24 purpose lanes by incentivizing travelers to carpool; and

25  
26           WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii and island of Oahu have  
27 limited lane miles thereby making it critical that each lane,  
28 including the zipper and high occupancy vehicle lanes are  
29 carrying the maximum number of cars during rush hours; and  
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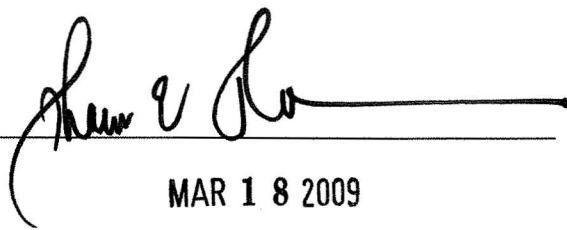


1 WHEREAS, although overall travel times for those vehicles  
2 now permitted to use high occupancy vehicle lanes have  
3 decreased, the large number of motorists and their passengers  
4 who have been forced to return to the general purpose lanes have  
5 experienced significantly increased travel times; now,  
6 therefore,  
7

8 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
9 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
10 of 2009, that the Department of Transportation is requested to  
11 change the required minimum number of persons carried in a motor  
12 vehicle from three passengers to two while traveling on a high  
13 occupancy vehicle lane; and  
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
16 Transportation is requested to provide to the Legislature no  
17 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular  
18 Session of 2010, a traffic count of the number of vehicles using  
19 the zipper lane from July 2008 to March 2009, and July 2007 to  
20 March 2008; and  
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.  
24  
25  
26

OFFERED BY:   
MAR 18 2009