

MAR 18 2009

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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,
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8 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
9 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
10 that the Department of Transportation is requested to change the
11 required minimum number of persons carried in a motor vehicle
12 from three passengers to two while traveling on a high occupancy
13 vehicle lane; and
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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
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
23 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.
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OFFERED BY: Will Enye

