

MAR 16 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR 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 in 1991 under the Intermodal Transportation Efficiency
12 Act and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; and
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14 WHEREAS, the National Scenic Byways Program is a voluntary
15 program designed to help states protect and promote their scenic
16 roads by which states apply for funding from the Federal Highway
17 Administration of the United States Department of Transportation
18 and submit nominations of certain roads for designation as
19 scenic byways by the Federal Highway Administration; and
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21 WHEREAS, for example, the state Department of
22 Transportation initiated the North Kona Heritage Corridor
23 Project on the Big Island with community input as a first step
24 to establishing a state scenic byway designation for that area;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, in the early years of the 16th century, Pi`ilani
28 Makua, the king of Maui, and his son, Kiha-a-Pi`ilani,
29 constructed within a span of about five years a pathway uniting
30 west and east Maui known as Alanui-Kike`eke`e-a-Maui, or the
31 winding pathway of Maui, which proceeded clockwise around the
32 northern coast of west Maui across the isthmus to Haleakala
33 Mountain; and
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1 WHEREAS, an eighteen-mile stretch of the pathway from
2 Honokowai to Kahakuloa, known as Na Hono-a-Pi'ilani, or the
3 Pi'ilani Trail, connects the six sacred bays of Pi'ilani, each
4 with distinct Hawaiian names that reflect their uniqueness; and
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6 WHEREAS, the six sacred bays of Pi'ilani consist of:
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- 8 (1) Honokowai bay, or the "watering bay," which is a long,
9 slight curve of calcareous beach sandstone, hard as
10 rock, that extends into the sea about three feet deep;
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- 12 (2) Honokeana bay, or the "cave bay," which is a deep,
13 boxy recess where the sea has eroded a bed of red ash,
14 coloring the water a murky red;
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- 16 (3) Honokahua bay, or the "sites bay," which is a
17 beautiful, peaceful, open, sandy beach now known as
18 Kapalua that is a closed semicircular shape with long
19 waves washing far up on the shore, ringed with palm
20 trees and jutting black lava rock;
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- 22 (4) Honolua bay, or "two harbors bay," which lies along
23 the coast where winds are brisk and ironwood trees
24 form windbreaks that bring fragrance to the air as
25 their soft needles cushion the ground;
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- 27 (5) Honokohau bay, or "bay drawing dew bay," which lies at
28 the mouth of Honokohau Stream, Maui's longest stream,
29 where the surface of the land slopes into the sea to
30 meet Molokai. The nearly inaccessible waterfall at
31 the head of Honokohau Stream drops 1,690 feet, making
32 it the sixth tallest waterfall in the world and the
33 second tallest in the nation after Yosemite in
34 California; and
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- 36 (6) Hononana bay, or "animated bay," which lies at the
37 mouth of Hononana gulch where nearby rests a boulder
38 alongside the road called Pohakukani, the "bell
39 stone," which when struck with a rock, sounds like the
40 ringing of a massive bell, but with a metallic timbre;
41 and
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43 WHEREAS, there is great interest from the community to
44 designate as a scenic byway the Pi'ilani Trail, the eighteen-mile



1 Heritage Corridor from Honokowai to Kahakuloa featuring the six
2 sacred bays of Pi'ilani, to preserve the area and to provide
3 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 Federal Highway Administration administers a fund to provide
13 assistance to states whose projects qualify according to federal
14 guidelines; now, therefore,
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
18 that the Office of the Governor is requested to convene a Scenic
19 Byways Working Group to select possible sites statewide,
20 including the Pi'ilani Trail on Maui, for proposed federal
21 designation as scenic byways and to develop the federally
22 required corridor management plan, as defined in the National
23 Scenic Byways Program Interim Policy; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is
26 requested to include in the Scenic Byways Working Group
27 representatives from the Departments of Transportation, Land and
28 Natural Resources, and Business, Economic Development, and
29 Tourism, relevant county agencies, and representatives from
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 consult with and invite representatives from the
35 Federal Highway Administration 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 act upon the findings and recommendations of the
41 Scenic Byways Working Group by submitting:
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- 43 (1) Nominations of roads selected by the Working Group for
44 designation as scenic byways; and



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(2) Applications for federal funding to support the promotion, maintenance, and repair of these roads, to the Federal Highway Administration of the United States Department of Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of the Governor is requested to report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2010, on the progress of the Scenic Byways Working Group and the status of any application to the Federal Highways Administration for funding and to designate selected roads of the State as scenic byways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Directors of Transportation and Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the mayor and chairperson of the council of each county, the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, and the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY: Rosalee H. Baker
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