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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AND USING A SOLAR POWERED  
HIGHWAY LIGHTING SYSTEM ALONG HAWAII'S HIGHWAYS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii currently relies on imported oil for over  
2 90 percent of its electrical generating power; and

3  
4           WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique global position makes its  
5 environment one of the most diverse and fragile environments in  
6 the world; and

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8           WHEREAS, this same global positioning provides Hawaii with  
9 a diverse array of natural resources including continuous trade  
10 winds, vast ocean swells, brilliant sunshine, and intense heat  
11 from geothermal vents, which if properly harnessed, can supply  
12 our state with a large portion of its energy needs; and

13  
14           WHEREAS, solar panels (arrays of photovoltaic cells) make  
15 use of renewable energy from the sun, and are a clean and  
16 environmentally sound means of converting the sun's light energy  
17 into electrical energy; and

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19           WHEREAS, the placement of solar panels along state highways  
20 is an excellent means to provide electrical power for highway  
21 lighting systems or nearby residential neighborhoods, and will  
22 help promote the widespread use of solar energy; and

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24           WHEREAS, the concept of generating solar power along  
25 roadsides for use to power highway lighting systems, as well as  
26 supply additional energy to an area's electrical grid, is not  
27 new with such systems existing in Europe for almost 20 years and  
28 the first solar highway project in the nation being launched in  
29 2008 by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); and



# H.C.R. NO. 206

1 WHEREAS, the initial success of Oregon's solar highway  
 2 demonstration project, which supplied about 128,000 kWh per  
 3 year, has stimulated ODOT to investigate other opportunities to  
 4 increase solar highway project development, with many of these  
 5 projects being considered in collaboration with Oregon's  
 6 investor owned utilities; and

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 8 WHEREAS, solar highway projects offer transportation  
 9 agencies a means of supplying clean energy for the powering of  
 10 highway lighting systems, and may offer the benefits of reduced  
 11 electrical costs; and

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 13 WHEREAS, Hawaii's year-round sunshine makes it an ideal  
 14 location to attempt to establish a solar highway project on our  
 15 state's highways; now, therefore,

16  
 17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 18 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 19 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
 20 Transportation (DOT) is requested to determine the feasibility  
 21 of establishing and using a solar powered highway lighting  
 22 system along Hawaii's highways; and

23  
 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED DOT is also requested to submit a  
 25 report of its findings and recommendations, including a cost-  
 26 benefit analysis of the establishment and use of a solar powered  
 27 highway lighting system in Hawaii and any necessary legislation,  
 28 to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening  
 29 of the Regular Session of 2012; and

30  
 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
 33 Department of Transportation.

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 35  
 36

Kal Nishida

OFFERED BY:

Karen Aulana

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Maui B. Lee

