
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO FORMULATE AN EQUITABLE AND OBJECTIVE
MEASURE FOR DISTRIBUTING TRANSPORTATION TAX REVENUE AND
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AIRPORT, HARBOR, AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS
TO THE COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 76, S.D. 1, 2009,
2 established a Task Force on Reinventing Government to examine
3 the current operations and organization of state government and
4 make recommendations on making state government more efficient;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Reinventing Government organized
8 a Department of Transportation/Transportation Subcommittee
9 (Subcommittee) to examine issues germane to transportation in
10 the State; and
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12 WHEREAS, among the recommendations of the Subcommittee was
13 for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure that
14 transportation tax revenues and federal funding are distributed
15 to the neighbor islands based on an objective formula; and
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17 WHEREAS, the finding of the Subcommittee, as included in
18 the Report of the Task Force on Reinventing Government, stated:
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20 "The Subcommittee finds that, as would be
21 expected, Oahu generates a substantial amount of
22 transportation tax revenues and federal funding
23 due to its concentration of population. At the
24 same time, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and the
25 Big Island all have significant and
26 disproportionately greater transportation needs
27 because of their lower population density and
28 separate geography. The result is that Oahu,
29 quite properly, provides subsidies to the
30 Neighbor Islands with respect to the funding of
31 airport, harbor, and highway projects. The
32 issue, rather, is whether the degree of
33 subsidization is derived through a thoughtful and
34 objective process or is the outcome of political



1 negotiation. To encourage the former, the
2 Subcommittee suggests that key metrics be adopted
3 to provide more clarity on the issue, for
4 example, measuring expenditures by units such as
5 vehicle miles, tonnage, etc. These metrics could
6 then be compared to those of other locales.
7 While unit expenditures on Neighbor Islands would
8 be expected to be higher than on Oahu, given the
9 above reasons, those metrics would provide a
10 rough sense of whether or not the differential
11 was appropriate."; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that the DOT should be
14 distributing projects to the neighbor islands in a fair and
15 equitable manner, notwithstanding the population disparities
16 between Oahu and the neighbor islands; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2010, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to
21 conduct a study, with the assistance of the Department of
22 Transportation, to develop key metrics, for example vehicle
23 miles, tonnage, and the like, that could be used to measure
24 expenditures by units, and which also could be used to determine
25 if the degree of subsidization by Oahu to the counties of
26 Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai of transportation tax revenues and
27 federal funding for airport, harbor, and highway projects is
28 derived through a thoughtful and objective process or is the
29 outcome of other factors such as political negotiation; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
32 Bureau report its findings and recommendations to the
33 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
34 the Regular Session of 2011; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative
38 Reference Bureau, the Director of Transportation, and the Chair
39 of the Task Force on Reinventing Government.
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OFFERED BY: 

