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# SENATE 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

6  
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

11  
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

16  
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

12  
 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,

17  
 18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
 19 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010,  
 20 that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a  
 21 study, with the assistance of the Department of Transportation,  
 22 to develop key metrics, for example vehicle miles, tonnage, and  
 23 the like, that could be used to measure expenditures by units,  
 24 and which also could be used to determine if the degree of  
 25 subsidization by Oahu to the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai  
 26 of transportation tax revenues and federal funding for airport,  
 27 harbor, and highway projects is derived through a thoughtful and  
 28 objective process or is the outcome of other factors such as  
 29 political negotiation; and

30  
 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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 41  
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OFFERED BY: Anna Inez K.



S.R. NO. 60

David Y. Jye

D

Michelle D. Staloni  
Clemente N. Siskin

Walter J. Gabbard

Ann H. Lee

Will E. Egan

Franne Chun Oakland

John

