

MAR 04 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAXIMIZE THE USE
OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, "Safe Routes to School" is a federally-funded
2 program designed to substantially improve the ability of primary
3 and middle school students to bike and walk to and from school
4 safely; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to Schools program is a Federal-
7 Aid program of the United States Department of Transportation's
8 Federal Highway Administration, and the program was created by
9 Section 1404 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient
10 Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School program in Hawaii is
13 administered by the Department of Transportation; and
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15 WHEREAS, the purpose of the Safe Routes to School program
16 is also to promote walking and bicycling to and from school,
17 encourage elementary and middle school aged children to be
18 physically active, and prevent childhood obesity; and
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20 WHEREAS, Safe Routes to School program activities remain
21 eligible for funding under the current transportation
22 alternatives program; and
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24 WHEREAS, eligible activities include planning, design, and
25 construction of projects that will substantially improve the
26 ability of students to walk and bike to and from school,
27 including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed
28 reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing
29 improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle
30 and pedestrian facilities, secure bike parking, and traffic
31 diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools (within
32 approximately two miles); and
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34 WHEREAS, many areas near schools statewide could greatly
35 benefit from such improvements, as existing infrastructure and



1 facilities are inadequate to safely enable or encourage safe
2 walking or biking to and from school; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan
5 of the Department of Transportation, May 2013, the Hawaii Safe
6 Routes to School program received total funding of \$7,200,000
7 between 2005-2011; and
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9 WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this body that the
10 Department of Transportation may not be using federal grants to
11 the maximum extent from the Safe Routes to School program for
12 its own traffic safety projects in school zones; and
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14 WHEREAS, this body is concerned for the safety of children
15 and wants to ensure that projects of the Department of
16 Transportation that are located adjacent to schools include
17 pedestrian safety and traffic calming measures; and
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19 WHEREAS, this body believes that sound public policy by the
20 State includes using and maximizing federal funds whenever
21 possible and therefore finds that the State should use federal
22 funds available to supplement projects of the Department of
23 Transportation that are adjacent to schools to enable students
24 to safely walk and bike to and from school; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014,
28 that the Department of Transportation is requested to utilize
29 federal funds to supplement projects of the Department of
30 Transportation that are adjacent to schools to enable students
31 to safely walk and bike to and from school; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
35 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of
36 Education.
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OFFERED BY:

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