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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM, AND REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE ENTITIES TO ASSIST IN FUNDING THE 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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1 WHEREAS, many areas near schools statewide could greatly  
2 benefit from such improvements, as existing infrastructure and  
3 facilities are inadequate to safely enable or encourage safe  
4 walking or biking to and from school; and

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6 WHEREAS, according to the Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan  
7 of the Department of Transportation, May 2013, the Hawaii Safe  
8 Routes to School program received total funding of \$7,200,000  
9 between 2005-2011; and

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11 WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this body that the  
12 Department of Transportation may not be using federal grants to  
13 the maximum extent possible under the Safe Routes to School  
14 program to supplement traffic safety projects in school zones;  
15 and

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17 WHEREAS, this body is concerned for the safety of children  
18 and wants to ensure that projects of the Department of  
19 Transportation that are located adjacent to schools include  
20 pedestrian safety and traffic calming measures; and

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22 WHEREAS, this body believes that sound public policy by the  
23 State includes using and maximizing federal funds whenever  
24 possible and therefore finds that the State should use federal  
25 funds available to supplement projects of the Department of  
26 Transportation that are adjacent to schools to enable students  
27 to safely walk and bike to and from school; and

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29 WHEREAS, this body further believes that the Hawaii safe  
30 routes to school program should be a federal-state-private  
31 entity partnership to maximize federal funding and that the  
32 Department of Transportation and Department of Education should  
33 encourage private entities to assist in funding the program;  
34 now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
37 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the  
38 House of Representatives concurring, that:

- 39  
40 (1) The Department of Transportation is requested to  
41 utilize federal funds to supplement projects of the  
42 Department of Transportation that are adjacent to



1 schools to enable students to safely walk and bike to  
2 and from school; and

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4 (2) The Department of Transportation and Department of  
5 Education are requested to encourage private entities  
6 to assist in funding the program as a federal-state-  
7 private entity partnership to maximize federal  
8 funding; and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,  
12 Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the Board of  
13 Education.

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