
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE THE WAIANAЕ COAST EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD SYSTEM AND WHETHER THESE ROADS CAN BE USED AS A SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD TO THE WAIANAЕ COAST ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

1 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway is the main route of travel for
2 communities of the Leeward Coast of Oahu and is the only public
3 highway that leads into and out of the region; and
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5 WHEREAS, as the population along the Leeward Coast
6 continues to increase, and with only one route into and out of
7 the area, traffic conditions continue to worsen and frustrated
8 Leeward motorists are caught in gridlock traffic conditions on a
9 daily basis; and
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11 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway has experienced lane closures
12 or complete shutdowns on numerous occasions due to traffic
13 accidents, severe weather, and other emergency conditions; and
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15 WHEREAS, for over a decade, numerous proposals to find a
16 solution to the foregoing problem have been made, including the
17 construction of a secondary access road into the Waianae area
18 parallel to Farrington Highway, the development of an emergency
19 access route into and out of the Waianae area using existing
20 infrastructure, increasing the capacity of Farrington Highway,
21 and construction of a mauka roadway through the Waianae mountain
22 range to connect the Leeward Coast with Central Oahu; and
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24 WHEREAS, despite these proposals, no permanent solution has
25 been initiated; and



1 WHEREAS, in a coordinated effort between numerous
2 departments and agencies, plans have been put in place to use
3 existing roads as an emergency access and bypass route into the
4 Waianae area during emergency highway closures or other
5 emergency situations; and
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7 WHEREAS, accordingly, the system of roads, known as the
8 Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System (WCEAR), consists of
9 gated roads that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of
10 Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu that can
11 be opened when it is deemed necessary or when requested by the
12 Honolulu Police Department; and
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14 WHEREAS, while use of WCEAR has provided needed relief
15 during recent emergency situations, issues regarding the timely
16 opening of these roads still remain, including the necessity of
17 having the gates to the roads unlocked by an individual from the
18 Department of Emergency Management; and
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20 WHEREAS, questions remain as to the actual ownership and
21 jurisdiction of the WCEAR System roads and whether WCEAR System
22 road conditions meet current road building standards; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there is a critical
25 need for an alternate route to the Waianae Coast to alleviate
26 aforestated circumstances; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
29 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
30 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
31 Transportation, in conjunction with the Department of
32 Transportation Services and Department of Emergency Management
33 of the City and County of Honolulu, and the Honolulu Police
34 Department, is urged to conduct an analysis of roads in the
35 Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System to:
36

- 37 (1) Determine the logistical challenges of opening WCEAR
38 System roads on a permanent basis;
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- 40 (2) Review and consider the jurisdictional issues that
41 need to be addressed to allow the use of WCEAR System
42 roads on a permanent basis;



- 1 (3) Determine any improvements necessary to bring WCEAR
- 2 System roads in line with current road building
- 3 standards, including cost estimates for the
- 4 improvements;
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- 6 (4) Determine the overall benefits of and the actions
- 7 necessary to effectuate the opening of WCEAR System
- 8 roads only during peak traffic times versus
- 9 permanently opening these roads, including effects in
- 10 reducing travel times; and
- 11
- 12 (5) Consider any other pertinent issues that may be
- 13 involved in the use of WCEAR System roads as an
- 14 alternative means of access to and from the Leeward
- 15 Coast; and
- 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 18 Transportation submit a report of its findings and
 19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 20 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
 21 Regular Session of 2018; and

22
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
 25 Transportation, Director of the Department of Transportation
 26 Services of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of the
 27 Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of
 28 Honolulu, and Acting Honolulu Police Chief.

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