

MAR 10 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS 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 WAIANAE COAST EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD SYSTEM AND WHETHER THESE ROADS CAN BE USED AS A SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD TO THE WAIANAE 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
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27 WHEREAS, in a coordinated effort between numerous
28 departments and agencies, plans have been put in place to use



1 existing roads as an emergency access and bypass route into the
2 Waianae area during emergency highway closures and other
3 emergency situations; and
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5 WHEREAS, accordingly, the system of roads, known as the
6 Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System (WCEAR), consists of
7 gated roads that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of
8 Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu that can
9 be opened when it is deemed necessary or when requested by the
10 Honolulu Police Department; and
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12 WHEREAS, while use of WCEAR has provided needed relief
13 during recent emergency situations, issues regarding the timely
14 opening of these roads still remain, including the necessity of
15 having the gates to the roads unlocked by an individual from the
16 Department of Emergency Management; and
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18 WHEREAS, questions remain as to the actual ownership and
19 jurisdiction of the WCEAR System roads and whether WCEAR System
20 road conditions meet current road building standards; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there is a critical
23 need for an alternate route to the Waianae Coast to alleviate
24 the aforesaid circumstances; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
28 that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, in conjunction with
29 the Department of Transportation Services and Department of
30 Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu, and the
31 Honolulu Police Department, is urged to conduct an analysis of
32 roads in the WCEAR System to:
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- 34 (1) Determine the logistical challenges of opening WCEAR
35 System roads on a permanent basis;
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- 37 (2) Review and consider the jurisdictional issues that
38 need to be addressed to allow the use of WCEAR System
39 roads on a permanent basis;
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- 41 (3) Determine any improvements necessary to bring WCEAR
42 System roads in line with current road-building



- 1 standards, including cost estimates for the
- 2 improvements;
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- 4 (4) Determine the overall benefits of and the actions
- 5 necessary to effectuate the opening of WCEAR System
- 6 roads only during peak traffic times versus
- 7 permanently opening these roads, including effects in
- 8 reducing travel times; and
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- 10 (5) Consider any other pertinent issues that may be
- 11 involved in the use of WCEAR System roads as an
- 12 alternative means of access to and from the Leeward
- 13 Coast; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
 16 Lands is requested to submit a report of its findings and
 17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 18 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the
 19 Regular Session of 2018; and

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

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 29 OFFERED BY: 

