
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A TASK
FORCE TO EXPLORE CERTAIN TOPICS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF
THE METRIC SYSTEM IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that strong reasons exist
2 for Hawai'i and other states to switch to the metric system, also
3 known as the International System of Units or SI; and
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5 WHEREAS, using its customary system of inches, feet,
6 ounces, and pounds, the United States is an outlier regarding
7 measurement standards; and
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9 WHEREAS, only two other countries - Burma and Liberia - do
10 not utilize the metric system as their predominant means of
11 measurement; and
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13 WHEREAS, the metric system is the language of science,
14 medicine, international commerce, and most sports; and
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16 WHEREAS, learning two measurement systems is time-
17 consuming, confusing, and can result in costly and dangerous
18 conversion errors; and
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20 WHEREAS, the costs of not utilizing the metric system are
21 quickly increasing with the trend toward globalization; and
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23 WHEREAS, not conforming to the global standards of
24 measurement could result in the United States losing its
25 competitive edge in science and technology and continue to be a
26 bilateral trade impediment with other countries; and
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28 WHEREAS, the economic benefits of global interoperability
29 greatly outweigh the challenges of converting to the metric
30 system; and
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1 WHEREAS, product design, manufacturing, marketing, and
2 labeling are all made more difficult by having to convert
3 measurements from one system to another; and
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5 WHEREAS, switching to the metric system could result in the
6 creation of many jobs and enable the current and future
7 workforce of the United States to be more prepared to compete in
8 the international marketplace; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
12 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
13 Transportation is requested to establish a task force to examine
14 certain topics associated with the use of the metric system in
15 Hawai'i, such as:
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- 17 (1) Exploring the use of the metric system for distance
18 and speed measurements on public signs; and
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- 20 (2) Evaluating whether any problems have occurred for
21 tourists from metric system-based countries; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of
24 the following members:
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- 26 (1) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
27 designee, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the
28 task force;
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- 30 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
31 Tourism or the Director's designee;
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- 33 (3) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
34 Hawaii Tourism Authority or the President and Chief
35 Executive Officer's designee;
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- 37 (4) The Administrator of the Quality Assurance Division of
38 the Department of Agriculture or the Administrator's
39 designee;
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- 41 (5) A member of the Senate, to be designated by the
42 President of the Senate; and



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(6) A member of the House of Representatives, to be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members may recommend additional members with relevant expertise to the task force, with the approval of the chairperson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation shall provide administrative and clerical support required by the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

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