
HOUSE 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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32 WHEREAS, product design, manufacturing, marketing, and
33 labeling are all made more difficult by having to convert
34 measurements from one system to another; and
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1 WHEREAS, switching to the metric system could result in the
2 creation of many jobs and enable the current and future
3 workforce of the United States to be more prepared to compete in
4 the international marketplace; now, therefore,
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
8 2020, that the Department of Transportation is requested to
9 establish a task force to examine certain topics associated with
10 the use of the metric system in Hawai'i, such as:
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- 12 (1) Exploring the use of the metric system for distance
13 and speed measurements on public signs; and
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- 15 (2) Evaluating whether any problems have occurred for
16 tourists from metric system-based countries; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of
19 the following members:
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- 21 (1) The Director of Transportation or the Director's
22 designee, who shall serve as the Chairperson of the
23 task force;
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- 25 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
26 Tourism or the Director's designee;
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- 28 (3) The President and Chief Executive Officer of the
29 Hawaii Tourism Authority or the President and Chief
30 Executive Officer's designee;
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- 32 (4) The Administrator of the Quality Assurance Division of
33 the Department of Agriculture or the Administrator's
34 designee;
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- 36 (5) A member of the Senate, to be designated by the
37 President of the Senate; and
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- 39 (6) A member of the House of Representatives, to be
40 designated by the Speaker of the House of
41 Representatives; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force members may
2 recommend additional members with relevant expertise to the task
3 force, with the approval of the chairperson; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
6 Transportation shall provide administrative and clerical support
7 required by the task force; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall submit a
10 report to the Legislature of its findings and recommendations,
11 including proposed legislation, no later than sixty days prior
12 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation;
16 Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism;
17 President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism
18 Authority; and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY:

Rony M. Smith

Richard Linn

Joshua M. Nye

D. L. Holt

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