
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND DIRECTOR OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU EACH SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS RECEIVED AND DISBURSEMENTS MADE BY THEIR DEPARTMENTS FOR VEHICULAR DAMAGE CAUSED BY POOR ROAD CONDITIONS IN 2019.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's roads, consistently ranked as some of the
2 worst roads in the country, make driving a high anxiety
3 experience, cause vehicular damage, increase the cost of vehicle
4 ownership, and negatively impact visitors' image of Hawaii; and
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6 WHEREAS, among other poor road conditions, potholes can
7 cause drivers to suddenly brake or swerve, which could cause
8 traffic accidents, while driving into a pothole can cause
9 vehicular damage; and
10

11 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Highway Administration,
12 forty-two percent of Hawaii's roads are in poor condition,
13 costing drivers an average of \$764 annually in tire, wheel, and
14 suspension component repairs; and
15

16 WHEREAS, individuals may file claims and pursue legal
17 action against the City and County of Honolulu and Department of
18 Transportation for damages to their vehicles caused by poor road
19 conditions; and
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21 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu receives notice of
22 potholes primarily through a pothole hotline where drivers are
23 expected to pull over and call the hotline; and
24

25 WHEREAS, this body finds that relying solely on drivers'
26 complaints to determine road conditions that are in need of
27 repair is ineffective; and



1 WHEREAS, poor road conditions are often blamed on the
2 extreme weather conditions in Hawaii; however, research shows
3 that potholes and poor road conditions may depend more on the
4 construction parameters of the road, including factors such as
5 the material and thickness of asphalt used in the road's base
6 and surface layers; and
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8 WHEREAS, Hawaii has intense rains which cause potholes to
9 appear throughout the year, but Hawaii continues to lay thinner
10 surface layers of asphalt on its roads than states with less
11 rainfall, such as California; and
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13 WHEREAS, other materials like concrete have proven to be
14 longer lasting and require less maintenance than asphalt;
15 however, Hawaii continues to use asphalt on most roads due to
16 the high initial cost of laying concrete; now, therefore,
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18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
20 2020, that the Director of Transportation and Director of
21 Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu are
22 requested to each submit a report to the Legislature regarding
23 the total number of claims received and disbursements made by
24 their respective departments for vehicular damage caused by poor
25 road conditions in 2019; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director of Transportation and
28 Director of Facility Maintenance are requested to explore the
29 various methods and technologies in use in other jurisdictions
30 to provide notification of roads needing maintenance, including
31 real time departmental monitoring and other methods of reporting
32 road conditions, and each submit a report on their findings and
33 the feasibility of incorporating such methods; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Transportation
36 and Director of Facility Maintenance are requested to explore
37 the effectiveness of the specifications of road materials
38 currently in use in their respective jurisdiction and determine
39 the feasibility of adjusting these specifications to increase
40 the durability and life expectancy of such materials, including
41 increasing the thickness of asphalt or using stronger materials



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1 such as concrete or newly developed materials or technologies;
2 and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Transportation
5 and Director of Facility Maintenance are requested to each
6 conduct a cost benefit analysis of incorporating methods
7 described in this resolution to improve the overall road
8 conditions across the City and County of Honolulu and State; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Transportation
11 and Director of Facility Maintenance are requested to submit
12 reports of their findings and recommendations, including any
13 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
14 days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2021;
15 provided that the Director of Transportation and Director of
16 Facility Maintenance may mutually agree to jointly prepare and
17 submit their reports as a consolidated report to the
18 Legislature; and
19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,
22 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, members of the
23 Honolulu City Council, and Director of Facility Maintenance of
24 the City and County of Honolulu.
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