

MAR - 6 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DESIGN, BUILD, AND OPERATE AN UNDERWATER TUNNEL TO PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION FOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC BETWEEN EWA AND DOWNTOWN HONOLULU, ALONG WITH THE EXPANSION OF ROADWAYS AS NECESSARY TO MAXIMIZE USE OF THE TUNNEL.

1 WHEREAS, the coming decades will bring tens of thousands of
2 new homes to the Leeward Coast and nearby areas of West Oahu;
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, traffic experts predict that vehicular congestion
6 will double or triple as a result of the growth in population;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, completion of Honolulu's rail transit project,
10 potential implementation of toll roads, and other traffic
11 mitigation efforts may be helpful but will not be enough to
12 provide the additional transportation capacity for West Oahu
13 residents; and

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15 WHEREAS, an underwater tunnel constructed at an appropriate
16 location would provide residents of the Leeward Coast with a
17 much more direct route to downtown Honolulu, reduce travel time,
18 and save transportation expenses; and

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20 WHEREAS, if invited to participate in the planning, it is
21 believed that the United States Navy would not oppose the
22 construction of an underwater tunnel because naval vessels
23 commonly traverse underwater tunnels on the East Coast of the
24 United States and throughout the world; now, therefore,

25
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
28 Representatives concurring, that the Department of



S.C.R. NO. 118

1 Transportation is requested to conduct a study on the
 2 feasibility of a public-private partnership to design, build,
 3 and operate an underwater tunnel to provide a more direct
 4 connection for vehicle traffic between Ewa and Downtown
 5 Honolulu, along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to
 6 maximize use of the tunnel; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include estimates on
 9 appropriate toll fees for use of the tunnel if a tunnel is
 10 feasible; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 13 Transportation is requested to submit the study to the
 14 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular
 15 Session of 2022; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
 19 Transportation and Chief of Naval Operations.
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OFFERED BY:

Kurt Ferrelle

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