

MAR - 5 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS AND
POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS IN THE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
ZONES OF THE AIEA-PEARL CITY DISTRICT FOR THE REPLACEMENT
OR RELOCATION OF THE EWA/PEARL CITY DISTRICT COURT.

1 WHEREAS, the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation is
2 providing a rail transit route running from East Kapolei to Ala
3 Moana Center with 21 stations, three of which are in the
4 Aiea-Pearl City District; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Aiea-Pearl City Neighborhood Transit-Oriented
7 Development Plan was adopted in September 2014 to create new
8 transportation options while encouraging economic growth and
9 attracting redevelopment, especially in the transit-oriented
10 development zones within easy walking distance of their three
11 train stations at Leeward Community College, Pearl Highlands,
12 and Pearlridge Center; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the Ewa/Pearl City District Court is also located
15 within Pearl City region at 870 4th Street, between the Pearl
16 Highlands and Pearlridge Center train stations. This rural
17 courthouse hears a wide range of cases within the Ewa/Pearl City
18 region, including traffic infractions and violations; non-jury
19 misdemeanor cases; probable cause hearings for felony cases;
20 petitions for temporary restraining orders and certain
21 injunctions against harassment; summary possession and various
22 landlord-tenant proceedings; small claims cases where the amount
23 claimed does not exceed \$5,000; non-jury civil cases where the
24 amount claimed does not exceed \$20,000; certain civil actions
25 where the amount claimed does not exceed \$40,000; and appeals
26 from administrative denials of motor vehicle registration; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Ewa/Pearl City District Courthouse is over
29 thirty years old. The foundation of this building is sinking,
30 which causes cracks in its walls. These cracks have resulted in
31 continued water intrusion and building settlement, further



1 affecting the structural integrity and, thereby, the operations
2 of the Ewa/Pearl City District Court; and
3

4 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Legislature appropriated a total of
5 \$420 million in general obligation bond funds for the capital
6 improvement projects needed at this facility. Specifically, the
7 Legislature appropriated \$220 million for the design and
8 construction to further mitigate ongoing water intrusion and
9 building settlement and \$200 million for the design and
10 construction to reroof and provide roof fall protection at the
11 Ewa/Pearl City District Courthouse; and
12

13 WHEREAS, our State is faced with limited, if not declining,
14 government funding. This trend is expected to continue,
15 encouraging agencies to partner with the private sector to
16 leverage limited governmental resources. Cooperation between
17 the public and private sectors can resolve funding issues and
18 successfully deliver services and facilities for the economic
19 and social benefit of the people of Hawaii; and
20

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that the cost to replace
22 or relocate the Ewa/Pearl City Courthouse is significantly lower
23 than all the appropriations needed to construct a new Ewa/Pearl
24 City Courthouse, when replacement or relocation is coupled with
25 an appropriate public-private partnership; now, therefore,
26

27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
28 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
29 Representatives concurring, that the Judiciary take advantage of
30 the opportunities presented by the economic growth and
31 redevelopment opportunities of transit-oriented development
32 within the Aiea/Pearl City region and begin investigating
33 alternative locations for the replacement or relocation of the
34 Ewa/Pearl City District Courthouse; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the Ewa/Pearl City District
37 Courthouse is located within a transit-oriented development
38 zone, the Judiciary consider including mixed-use elements in any
39 plans to redevelop the existing courthouse; and
40



S.C.R. NO. 96

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary also consider a
2 land swap to relocate the Ewa/Pearl City Courthouse to another
3 location; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary further consider
6 entering a public-private partnership to realize cost savings
7 and minimize the need for State funding to complete the
8 redevelopment or relocation of the Ewa/Pearl City Courthouse
9 within the transit-oriented development zones within the
10 Aiea/Pearl City region; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Chief
14 Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Administrative
15 Director of the Courts.
16
17
18

OFFERED BY: Breene H. H. H.
Clarence K. S. S.

