

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS, DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAYS DIVISION, AND HAWAII COUNTY TO
COLLECTIVELY DEVELOP A PLAN TO IMPROVE MEALANI ROAD AND
ESTABLISH A PROTOCOL TO USE MEALANI ROAD AS AN EMERGENCY
BYPASS ROUTE WHEN MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY IS INACCESSIBLE.

1 WHEREAS, maintaining road access during disasters and
2 emergency road closures is of critical importance for public
3 safety; and
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5 WHEREAS, Mamalahoa Highway is the only road that provides
6 entry and exit from the east side of the town of Waimea in
7 Hawaii County; and
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9 WHEREAS, closures of Mamalahoa Highway have caused
10 significant problems for residents and commuters trying to
11 access school, work, church, the post office, stores, and their
12 homes; and
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14 WHEREAS, Mealani Road is an unimproved road under the
15 jurisdiction of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands that is
16 the only existing potential emergency bypass route during times
17 when Mamalahoa Highway is blocked on the east side of Waimea;
18 and
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20 WHEREAS, Mealani Road is privately owned by the Department
21 of Hawaiian Home Lands and currently requires approval by the
22 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for use by individuals or
23 entities other than homestead residents; and
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25 WHEREAS, the establishment of Mealani Road as an emergency
26 bypass route requires collaboration between the Department of
27 Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation Highways
28 Division, and Hawaii County to provide access and public safety
29 during use of this single-lane road; and



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1 WHEREAS, previously, collaboration between the Department
 2 of Hawaiian Home Lands and Hawaii County led to the successful
 3 completion of improvements to Kahilu Road for emergency access
 4 in Waimea; and

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 6 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to improve Mealani
 7 Road and establish a protocol for the use of Mealani Road as an
 8 emergency bypass route; now, therefore,

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 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
 12 Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Department of Transportation
 13 Highways Division; and Hawaii County, including the Hawaii
 14 County Department of Public Works, Hawaii County Civil Defense
 15 Agency, Hawaii Police Department, and Hawaii Fire Department,
 16 are urged to collectively develop a plan to improve Mealani Road
 17 and establish a protocol to use Mealani Road as an emergency
 18 bypass route when Mamalahoa Highway is inaccessible; and

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 20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Hawaiian Home
 21 Lands; Department of Transportation Highways Division; and
 22 Hawaii County, including the Hawaii County Department of Public
 23 Works, Hawaii County Civil Defense Agency, Hawaii Police
 24 Department, and Hawaii Fire Department, are requested to submit
 25 to the Legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the
 26 convening of the Regular Session of 2021, a report describing
 27 their plan to improve Mealani Road and to establish a protocol
 28 to use Mealani Road as an emergency bypass route when Mamalahoa
 29 Highway is inaccessible; and

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 31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 32 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian
 33 Homes Commission, Director of Transportation, Deputy Director
 34 for Highways of the Department of Transportation, Mayor of
 35 Hawaii County, Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council,
 36 Director of the Hawaii County Department of Public Works, Hawaii
 37 County Civil Defense Administrator, Hawaii County Police Chief,
 38 and Hawaii County Fire Chief.

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OFFERED BY: *Aracelis L. Moya*



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