

MAR 05 2020

SENATE 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

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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
32 affecting the structural integrity and, thereby, the operations
33 of the Ewa/Pearl City District Court; and



S.R. NO. 60

1 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Legislature appropriated a total of
2 \$420 million in general obligation bond funds for the capital
3 improvement projects needed at this facility. Specifically, the
4 Legislature appropriated \$220 million for the design and
5 construction to further mitigate ongoing water intrusion and
6 building settlement and \$200 million for the design and
7 construction to reroof and provide roof fall protection at the
8 Ewa/Pearl City District Courthouse; and
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10 WHEREAS, our State is faced with limited, if not declining,
11 government funding. This trend is expected to continue,
12 encouraging agencies to partner with the private sector to
13 leverage limited governmental resources. Cooperation between
14 the public and private sectors can resolve funding issues and
15 successfully deliver services and facilities for the economic
16 and social benefit of the people of Hawaii; and
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18 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that the cost to replace
19 or relocate the Ewa/Pearl City Courthouse is significantly lower
20 than all the appropriations needed to construct a new Ewa/Pearl
21 City Courthouse, when replacement or relocation is coupled with
22 an appropriate public-private partnership; now, therefore,
23

24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
25 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
26 Judiciary take advantage of the opportunities presented by the
27 economic growth and redevelopment opportunities of transit-
28 oriented development within the Aiea/Pearl City region and begin
29 investigating alternative locations for the replacement or
30 relocation of the Ewa/Pearl City District Courthouse; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the Ewa/Pearl City District
33 Courthouse is located within a transit-oriented development
34 zone, the Judiciary consider including mixed-use elements in any
35 plans to redevelop the existing courthouse; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary also consider a
38 land swap to relocate the Ewa/Pearl City Courthouse to another
39 location; and
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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary further consider
42 entering a public-private partnership to realize cost savings



S.R. NO. 60

1 and minimize the need for State funding to complete the
2 redevelopment or relocation of the Ewa/Pearl City Courthouse
3 within the transit-oriented development zones within the
4 Aiea/Pearl City region; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Chief Justice of the
8 Hawaii Supreme Court and the Administrative Director of the
9 Courts.
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OFFERED BY: Breene Smith

Clarence W. Freshman

