
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MAYOR OF THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF HONOLULU, AND HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL TO REROUTE
FARRINGTON HIGHWAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1998 MAKAHA BEACH
PARK MASTER PLAN.

1 WHEREAS, Makaha Beach Park used to be the home of sand
2 dunes, which were relocated to provide sand to Kaiser, Sand
3 Island, and other beach parks in Honolulu; and
4

5 WHEREAS, international surfing champions from Makaha Beach
6 Park include Richard "Buffalo" Keaulana, the "Queen of Makaha"
7 Rell Sunn, Sunny Garcia, Rusty Keaulana, Duane DeSoto, and many
8 others; and
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10 WHEREAS, Makaha Beach Park on Oahu's leeward coast is a
11 favorite spot for locals and visitors, and is home to iconic
12 surfing competitions including Buffalo's Big Board Surfing
13 Classic, Rell Sunn's Menehune Surf Meet, Bradah Mel's Waterman's
14 Championships, and Keiki Surf Kontest, among many others; and
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16 WHEREAS, the City and County of Honolulu Department of
17 Parks and Recreation annually lists Makaha Beach Park as one of
18 the top-ten most visited parks on Oahu; and
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20 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway parallels the shoreline and
21 splits Makaha Beach Park into two halves, with the beach on the
22 makai side of the highway and restrooms, showers, a parking lot,
23 and a canoe hale on the mauka side of the highway; and
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25 WHEREAS, because the beach park is bisected by Farrington
26 Highway, it creates unsafe conditions where beachgoers,
27 particularly small children, frequently have to cross the busy
28 highway to get to the beach; and



H.C.R. NO. 180

1 WHEREAS, the close proximity of Farrington Highway to the
2 shoreline has resulted in serious damage to the highway from
3 storms and waves; and

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5 WHEREAS, in 1983, strong waves eroded a portion of
6 Farrington Highway, which caused the Department of Transportation
7 and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and
8 Recreation to request a shore protection study from the United
9 States Army Corps of Engineers (Engineer Corps); and

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11 WHEREAS, in 1985, the Engineer Corps concluded that
12 Farrington Highway should be realigned further inland and away
13 from the shoreline to protect the highway from future wave
14 damage; and

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16 WHEREAS, subsequent to the study and recommendations from
17 the Engineer Corps, the City and County of Honolulu acquired
18 additional park properties mauka of Farrington Highway to expand
19 the beach park and lobbied the State to fund the relocation of
20 the highway further inland, which the State was unable to fund;
21 and

22
23 WHEREAS, in 1998 the City and County of Honolulu developed
24 a master plan for Makaha Beach Park that proposed to reroute
25 Farrington Highway further inland and away from the beach, as
26 well as expanding the beach park with new picnic areas, fields,
27 and restroom facilities; and

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29 WHEREAS, the 1998 Makaha Beach Park master plan was never
30 executed due to a lack of funds; and

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32 WHEREAS, at the urging of area residents, former City
33 Councilmember Kymberly Pine asked the Oahu Metropolitan Planning
34 Organization to authorize a feasibility study for the potential
35 mauka route realignment of Farrington Highway at Makaha Beach,
36 which the organization unanimously approved; and

37
38 WHEREAS, despite the approval for the feasibility study,
39 the study was never executed due to a lack of funds; and

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41 WHEREAS, beach erosion at Makaha Beach Park caused by
42 rising sea levels and runoff from Farrington Highway has led to



1 approval of emergency permits and measures by the Department of
2 Land and Natural Resources, including partnering with private
3 heavy equipment operators and machine owners to move sand from
4 the east end to the west end of the beach, to prevent further
5 erosion; and
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7 WHEREAS, in 2010 the City and County of Honolulu Department
8 of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Land and Natural
9 Resources' Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands commissioned
10 a study which concluded that erosion at Makaha Beach Park poses
11 a serious safety concern and, like in the 1985 Engineer Corps
12 study, recommended that Farrington Highway be realigned further
13 inland to mitigate beach erosion; and
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15 WHEREAS, the urgency to repair the Makaha Bridge has been a
16 public safety concern for Waianae residents for many years; and
17

18 WHEREAS, Farrington Highway is the only transportation
19 route to travel south in the Makaha area; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Highways Division
22 has proposed to replace two existing wooden bridges along
23 Farrington Highway, Route 93, between milepost marker
24 numbers 13.95 and 14.21 in Makaha on the Waianae Coast of Oahu;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, Makaha Bridge No. 3 and Makaha Bridge No. 3A were
28 constructed in 1927 and currently support two eleven-foot lanes
29 with a two-foot shoulder on the makai side of the bridge and a
30 one-foot shoulder on the mauka side; and
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32 WHEREAS, both bridges have been classified by the
33 Department of Transportation as deficient and require
34 replacement; and
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36 WHEREAS, to meet existing roadway design requirements, the
37 proposed project will require additional areas beyond the
38 existing right-of-way to accommodate the increased bridge spans
39 and structures necessary for embankment protection, channel
40 widening, and guardrail improvements; and



H.C.R. NO. 180

1 WHEREAS, the proposed wider right-of-way will affect lands
2 on the mauka and makai sides adjacent to the project site; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Waianae community believes placing the
5 project's temporary bypass road on the makai side of Farrington
6 Highway will cut off and strand residents and tourists west of
7 the project, should the five-year flood level standard temporary
8 roads be washed to sea by inland flooding or ocean surge; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation will begin
11 preparations for the replacement of the Makaha Bridge No. 3
12 and 3A on March 8, 2021, starting with clearing the area makai
13 of the existing bridge to prepare for installation of a
14 temporary bypass; and
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16 WHEREAS, because of this imminent construction, the issues
17 raised by the Waianae community about the location of the
18 temporary bypass are more pressing than ever; now, therefore,
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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
21 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
22 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
23 Transportation, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, and
24 Honolulu City Council are urged to reroute Farrington Highway in
25 accordance with the 1998 Makaha Beach Park Master Plan; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's
29 Congressional Delegation, Governor, Director of Transportation,
30 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of
31 the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson of the Honolulu
32 City Council, Executive Director of Oahu Metropolitan Planning
33 Organization, and Chairperson of the Waianae Neighborhood Board.
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36

OFFERED BY:



MAR 12 2021

