

MAR 12 2021

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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SUPPORTING ANY PUBLIC PROJECT, PERMIT, OR APPROVAL THAT IMPROVES  
PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY WHILE RETAINING PUBLIC  
PARKING AT LANIAKEA BEACH.

1 WHEREAS, Kamehameha Highway at Laniakea Beach has been, and  
2 continues to be, a traffic choke point with pedestrians crossing  
3 from the parking area to the beach that causes traffic to  
4 regularly back up as much as two miles in both directions; and  
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6 WHEREAS, community members have actively advocated for  
7 relief from the traffic congestion and disorganized beach access  
8 since at least 2005 and there have been several opportunities  
9 for the State and City and County of Honolulu to work together  
10 with stakeholders to resolve the parking and safety concerns;  
11 and  
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13 WHEREAS, to ensure that the public would continue to park  
14 mauka of the highway at Laniakea Beach, the City and County of  
15 Honolulu used eminent domain and obtained possession of the site  
16 of Laniakea Beach Support Park by a court order on August 2,  
17 1999; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, on December 23, 2013, the Department of  
20 Transportation placed concrete jersey barriers on the mauka  
21 shoulder of the highway to block the public from parking on city  
22 property mauka of Laniakea Beach; and  
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24 WHEREAS, a lawsuit was filed to restore parking for beach  
25 access and on July 8, 2015, the First Circuit Court ruled that  
26 the plaintiffs are likely to prevail upon the merits of the  
27 dispute regarding whether the Department of Transportation can  
28 maintain the traffic barriers on the park area without the  
29 necessary permits and issued a preliminary injunction which  
30 required the Department of Transportation to remove all jersey  
31 barriers from the park area; and  
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33 WHEREAS, on August 15, 2015, the Department of  
34 Transportation removed the jersey barriers from the highway and



1 placed them at the back of the parking area, and then removed  
2 them entirely from city property by September 27, 2019; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is presently  
5 considering four alternatives: No Build Alternative, No Build  
6 Settlement Alternative, Transportation System Management  
7 Alternative, and Pedestrian Shift Alternative; and  
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9 WHEREAS, the No Build Alternative leaves the project area  
10 as is; and  
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12 WHEREAS, the No Build Settlement Alternative would  
13 implement the project stipulated in the settlement reached  
14 between the City and County of Honolulu, Department of  
15 Transportation, and the litigants; and  
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17 WHEREAS, the Transportation System Management Alternative  
18 would block parking on the mauka side of Kamehameha Highway with  
19 a permanent guardrail, similar to what was done with jersey  
20 barriers; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the Pedestrian Shift Alternative would realign  
23 Kamehameha Highway and allow parking between the highway and the  
24 shoreline, but proposes to prohibit parking for an undetermined  
25 time, possibly years, during construction; and  
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27 WHEREAS, any agency permit or approval which allows closing  
28 most or all public parking at Laniakea Beach for a multi-year  
29 period would not comply with state coastal zone management  
30 policies and would unreasonably restrict beneficial use of the  
31 environment and public resources and other community cultural  
32 practices; now, therefore,  
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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,  
36 that this body supports any public project, permit, or approval  
37 that improves pedestrian and traffic safety while retaining  
38 public parking at Laniakea Beach; and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body opposes any public  
41 project, permit, or approval which would close most or all  
42 public parking at Laniakea Beach for a multi-year period; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of  
4 Transportation, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
5 Resources, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Chairperson  
6 of the Honolulu City Council, Director of Parks and Recreation  
7 of the City and County of Honolulu, Director of Design and  
8 Construction of the City and County of Honolulu, and Director of  
9 Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu.  
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11  
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OFFERED BY:

*Gil Rivas*

