
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND POLICY AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO ASSIST THE COUNTY OF HAWAII IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FORMATION OF A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION OR A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION.

1 WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act has
2 allocated \$358,000,000 to the Metropolitan Planning Organization
3 Highway Planning Funding and \$107,000,000 to Metropolitan
4 Planning Organization Transit Planning Funding to expend within
5 the next five years; and

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7 WHEREAS, the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962 required that
8 metropolitan planning organizations be established to serve as a
9 forum for collaboration among local communities and government
10 agencies and to direct federal funds toward projects that
11 increase access to opportunity and prosperity through improved
12 multimodal pedestrian, bicycle, and transit options; and

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14 WHEREAS, metropolitan planning organizations are designated
15 by agreement between the Governor and local governments that
16 together represent at least seventy-five percent of the affected
17 population, including the largest incorporated city based on
18 population, or in accordance with procedures established by
19 applicable state and local law; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has the
22 responsibility of supporting statewide transportation goals in
23 the State and working together with the counties to accomplish
24 transportation goals on their respective islands; and

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26 WHEREAS, there are two established metropolitan planning
27 organizations operating in the State of Hawaii, one located in



1 the County of Maui and the other in the City and County of
2 Honolulu; and
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4 WHEREAS, according to the 2020 United States Census data,
5 200,629 people reside in the County of Hawaii, where the ability
6 to deliver quality public transportation services is hampered by
7 the sheer geographic distance between urban and rural areas; and
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9 WHEREAS, in December 2021, the Hawaii County Council passed
10 Resolution No. 262-21, urging the County's Department of
11 Planning to assess the feasibility of establishing a
12 metropolitan planning organization for the County of Hawaii; and
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14 WHEREAS, in June 2022, data points for urbanized areas will
15 be made available by the United States Census and such data will
16 be provided to the United States Department of Transportation
17 and the Governor of the State of Hawaii for determination of
18 metropolitan planning organization formation for urban areas of
19 fifty thousand people or greater; and
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21 WHEREAS, when the population for Kailua-Kona, Hilo, or Puna
22 exceeds forty-five thousand people, the Department of
23 Transportation is requested to begin the interim process of
24 establishing a metropolitan planning organization with the
25 County of Hawaii in cooperation with the Governor in accordance
26 with title 23 United States Code section 134(b) and title 49
27 United States Code section 5303(c); and
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29 WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the policy board of
30 the metropolitan planning organization to make decisions that
31 are the result of the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive
32 transportation planning process and the organization's staff is
33 responsible for supporting and providing technical resources to
34 the policy board; and
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36 WHEREAS, the County of Hawaii does not have a metropolitan
37 planning organization; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
41 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
42 Transportation is urged to convene an Intergovernmental Task



1 Force to recommend policy and provide guidance to assist the
2 County of Hawaii in the establishment and formation of a
3 metropolitan planning organization or a regional transportation
4 planning organization should the County of Hawaii not meet the
5 population threshold of the formalization of a metropolitan
6 planning organization, according to the 2020 census; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
9 Transportation is urged to provide the Intergovernmental Task
10 Force with a list of highway projects to be executed within the
11 next four years from the State Transportation Improvement
12 Program to support the development of the metropolitan planning
13 organization's transportation improvement program; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Intergovernmental Task
16 Force is requested to submit a report of its findings and
17 recommendations, including any proposed legislation if needed
18 after review of existing state law and federal regulation, to
19 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
20 of the Regular Session of 2023; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Intergovernmental Task
23 Force be dissolved upon submittal of its report; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
26 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
27 Transportation, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Councilmembers of
28 the Hawaii County Council, Director of the County of Hawaii Mass
29 Transit Agency, and Director of Planning and Public Works of the
30 County of Hawaii.

