

---

# SENATE RESOLUTION

---

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO DETERMINE HOW THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CAN BETTER ADDRESS THE RAPIDLY  
ESCALATING COSTS OF TRANSPORTATION IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, auto-related costs such as gas, electricity,  
2 insurance, maintenance, and vehicle ownership costs are rapidly  
3 rising, including a twenty-three per cent increase in the last  
4 twelve months; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, a 2021 report by the Ulupono Initiative found that  
7 transportation costs averaged between \$8,000 and \$13,000 per  
8 individual, and \$20,000 and \$25,000 per two-car families; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, public costs from local, county, state, and  
11 federal governments to build, repair, and maintain public roads,  
12 regardless of vehicle ownership amount to \$15,000-\$24,000 per  
13 household; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of  
16 Transportation and Federal Highway Administration calculations,  
17 taxpayers pay indirect costs around \$3.3 billion annually for  
18 injuries and fatalities, in addition to other costs such as  
19 congestion, parking subsidies, and emissions; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, according to a 2022 Bureau of Labor Statistics  
22 report, households in auto-dependent communities devote twenty  
23 percent more money to transportation than those with complete  
24 streets and car-based infrastructure without other modes of  
25 transportation discriminates against youth, elderly, disabled,  
26 and others who cannot afford to drive; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, a 2021 report by the Oahu Metropolitan Planning  
29 Organization found that county and state expenditures on  
30 pedestrian and bike infrastructure result in safe bike,  
31 pedestrian, and public transit infrastructure being largely  
32 unavailable for most families; and



1 WHEREAS, lack of bike, pedestrian, and public transit  
2 infrastructure disproportionately hurts lower income  
3 communities, particularly in urban areas; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, if safe bike, pedestrian, and public transit  
6 infrastructure were more widely available to make commuting more  
7 flexible for families then many families with three cars could  
8 get by with two cars, and families with two cars could get by  
9 with one car, saving tens of thousands of dollars for each  
10 family per year; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, electric vehicles are cheaper than gasoline-  
13 powered vehicles to fuel and maintain, and are increasingly  
14 cheaper to buy; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, new modes of cheaper transit are now available,  
17 including e-bikes, e-scooters, and other similar modes of  
18 transportation; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, places around the world already provide free  
21 public transit; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the lowest economic quintile in in the United  
24 States spends thirty per cent of its income on transportation  
25 costs while the lowest economic quintile in Europe spends only  
26 eight per cent of its income on transportation; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, Hawaii can learn from other places that have  
29 successfully modernized and reduced the cost of transportation  
30 for local residents; now, therefore,  
31

32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
34 House of Representatives concurring, that a task force is  
35 requested to be convened to determine how the Department of  
36 Transportation can lower the cost of transportation; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to:  
39

- 40 (1) Evaluate modern best practices and successful examples  
41 of transit that reduce the cost of transportation in  
42 other places;



(2) Evaluate relevant studies;

(3) Evaluate current Department of Transportation priorities, processes, and outcomes; and

(4) Conclude and report findings and recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to consist of the following members or their designees:

(1) A Committee with jurisdiction over transportation in the Senate which will serve as chair;

(2) The Director of Transportation;

(3) The Director of the State Energy Office;

(4) The Superintendent of Education;

(5) The Director of Health;

(6) The Chief Energy Officer;

(7) A representative from the Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice;

(8) A representative from AlohaCare;

(9) A representative from the Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!;

(10) A representative from the Ulupono Initiative;

(11) A representative from the American Association of Retired Persons Hawaii;

(12) A representative from the Hawaii Bicycling League; and

(13) One member with expertise addressing cost of transportation in other jurisdictions; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the co-chairs of the task force  
2 may invite other interested parties to join the task force; and  
3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force are  
5 requested to serve without compensation; and  
6

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
8 submit:  
9

10 (1) An initial report to the Legislature no later than  
11 December 1, 2022; and  
12

13 (2) A final report to the Legislature no later than  
14 December 1, 2023; and  
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,  
18 Director of the State Energy Office, Superintendent of  
19 Education, Director of Health, Chief Energy Officer, President  
20 of the AlohaCare Board of Directors, Executive Director of the  
21 Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, President of the  
22 Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, President of the  
23 Ulupono Initiative, Director of the American Association of  
24 Retired Persons Hawaii, and Director of the Hawaii Bicycling  
25 League.

