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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP  
A GREEN HIGHWAY PROGRAM IN THE STATE.

1           WHEREAS, green highways have been implemented across the  
2 world to promote sustainability, reduce environmental impact,  
3 and enhance the quality of life for communities along highways;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, green highways can contribute to island heat  
7 mitigation by incorporating features such as green  
8 infrastructure, shade trees, and reflective pavements, which  
9 help lower temperatures and combat urban heat effects; and

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11           WHEREAS, beautification efforts along green highways  
12 include landscaping with native plants, creating aesthetically  
13 pleasing landscapes that enhance the visual appeal of highway  
14 corridors, and providing habitat for local wildlife; and

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16           WHEREAS, green highways offer numerous benefits, including  
17 improved air and water quality, reduced noise pollution,  
18 enhanced biodiversity, and increased recreational opportunities  
19 for residents and visitors alike; and

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21           WHEREAS, green highways also promote sustainable  
22 transportation options such as walking and biking trails,  
23 electric vehicle charging stations, and public transit access,  
24 reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles and lowering  
25 greenhouse gas emissions; and

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27           WHEREAS, the implementation of a green highway program  
28 aligns with statewide goals for environmental stewardship,  
29 climate resilience, and sustainable development, contributing to  
30 a healthier and more resilient future for the State's  
31 communities; and



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WHEREAS, a new green highway stretch in Norway, known as "the Green Shortcut" (Den Grønne Snarvei), has significantly reduced journey times and environmental impact between Oslo and Trondheim; and

WHEREAS, considering the positive impact of green highways on communities worldwide, the State should take proactive steps to explore and implement similar initiatives in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the House of Representatives concurring, that a task force is requested to be convened to research and develop a green highway program in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives are requested to appoint the co-chairpersons of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the co-chairpersons of the task force are requested to select and invite the following members or their designees to participate on the task force:

- (1) A representative from the Department of Transportation;
- (2) A representative from the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
- (3) A representative with expertise in arboriculture; and
- (4) Any other representative with subject matter expertise; and

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

- (1) Develop green highway standards to address urban temperatures, stormwater retention, unsightly infrastructure impacting tourism, and mental health; and



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2 (2) Examine best practices in places that have  
3 successfully implemented green highway infrastructure;  
4 and  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to  
7 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
8 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
9 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
10 2025; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
14 Transportation and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
15 Resources.

