

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO RESEARCH A GREEN HIGHWAY PROGRAM.

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 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 island effects;
10 and

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

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

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

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

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34 WHEREAS, a new green highway stretch in Norway, known as
35 "the Green Shortcut" (Den Grønne Snarvei), has significantly



1 reduced journey times and environmental impact between Oslo and
2 Trondheim; and

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4 WHEREAS, considering the positive impact of green highways
5 on communities worldwide, the Department of Transportation must
6 take proactive steps to explore and implement similar
7 initiatives in the State; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
10 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
11 that the Department of Transportation is requested to convene a
12 task force to research and develop a green highway program; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
15 include the following members or their designees:

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17 (1) The Director of Transportation, who is requested to
18 serve as chairperson;
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20 (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
21 Resources; and
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23 (3) A representative with expertise in arboriculture,
24 selected and invited by the chairperson; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
27 develop projects and define best practices to achieve
28 temperature reduction, carbon capture, and habitat restoration;
29 and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
32 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
33 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
34 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
35 2025; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
3 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

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OFFERED BY: *Clu*

