
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNITED STATES ARMY, UNITED STATES NAVY, AND STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO EXPAND, PLAN, AND COORDINATE WORK RELATED TO USING KOLEKOLE PASS AS AN EXPANDED EMERGENCY EXIT ROUTE.

1 WHEREAS, Kolekole Pass, a historically significant and
2 strategically located corridor through the Wai'anae mountain
3 range in Nānākuli has long been recognized as a potential
4 emergency evacuation route connecting the Leeward Coast to
5 Central Oahu; and

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7 WHEREAS, Kolekole Pass has been used historically for
8 military operations and has played an important role in Hawaii's
9 history, including serving as a critical route for military and
10 emergency access; and

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12 WHEREAS, recent natural disasters, including the fires on
13 Maui, have underscored the necessity of maintaining alternative
14 evacuation routes to ensure the safety of residents in
15 vulnerable communities; and

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17 WHEREAS, the West side of Oahu faces limited road access,
18 with Farrington Highway serving as the primary roadway for
19 thousands of residents, leaving communities vulnerable to
20 dangerous gridlocks during emergencies; and

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22 WHEREAS, the military has conducted multiple exercises in
23 coordination with federal, state, and county agencies to
24 evaluate the feasibility of Kolekole Pass as an emergency
25 evacuation route, including full-scale exercises in February
26 2025, that tested its viability for civilian use; and



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2 WHEREAS, recent discussions between military and civilian
3 leadership have indicated a willingness to consider Kolekole
4 Pass for public use in emergency situations; provided
5 appropriate planning, maintenance, and coordination are in
6 place; and
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8 WHEREAS, the coordination of multiple federal, state, and
9 county agencies is necessary to implement infrastructure
10 improvements and establish protocols for civilian use of
11 Kolekole Pass in emergencies; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the United States
16 Department of Defense, United States Army, United States Navy,
17 and State Department of Transportation are requested to work
18 with appropriate state and county departments and agencies to
19 expand, plan, and coordinate work to prepare and secure Kolekole
20 Pass as an expanded emergency exit route for residents on the
21 West side of Oahu in the event of dangerous gridlocks, natural
22 disasters, or unforeseen catastrophic emergencies; and
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
26 Secretary of Defense, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval
27 Operations, members of Hawaii's congressional delegation,
28 Governor, Director of Transportation, and Administrator of
29 Emergency Management for the City and County of Honolulu.

