

MAR 04 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY TO FORMULATE AN EQUITABLE AND OBJECTIVE
MEASURE FOR DISTRIBUTING TRANSPORTATION TAX REVENUE AND
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AIRPORT, HARBOR, AND HIGHWAY PROJECTS
TO THE COUNTIES.

1 WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution No. 76, S.D. 1, 2009,
2 established a Task Force on Reinventing Government to examine
3 the current operations and organization of state government and
4 make recommendations on making state government more efficient;
5 and

6
7 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Reinventing Government organized
8 a Department of Transportation/Transportation Subcommittee
9 (Subcommittee) to examine issues germane to transportation in
10 the State; and

11
12 WHEREAS, among the recommendations of the Subcommittee was
13 for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to ensure that
14 transportation tax revenues and federal funding are distributed
15 to the neighbor islands based on an objective formula; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the finding of the Subcommittee, as included in
18 the Report of the Task Force on Reinventing Government, stated:

19
20 "The Subcommittee finds that, as would be
21 expected, Oahu generates a substantial amount of
22 transportation tax revenues and federal funding
23 due to its concentration of population. At the
24 same time, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and the
25 Big Island all have significant and
26 disproportionately greater transportation needs
27 because of their lower population density and
28 separate geography. The result is that Oahu,
29 quite properly, provides subsidies to the
30 Neighbor Islands with respect to the funding of
31 airport, harbor, and highway projects. The



1 issue, rather, is whether the degree of
2 subsidization is derived through a thoughtful and
3 objective process or is the outcome of political
4 negotiation. To encourage the former, the
5 Subcommittee suggests that key metrics be adopted
6 to provide more clarity on the issue, for
7 example, measuring expenditures by units such as
8 vehicle miles, tonnage, etc. These metrics could
9 then be compared to those of other locales.
10 While unit expenditures on Neighbor Islands would
11 be expected to be higher than on Oahu, given the
12 above reasons, those metrics would provide a
13 rough sense of whether or not the differential
14 was appropriate."; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Legislature believes that the DOT should be
17 distributing projects to the neighbor islands in a fair and
18 equitable manner, notwithstanding the population disparities
19 between Oahu and the neighbor islands; now, therefore,
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
24 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study, with the
25 assistance of the Department of Transportation, to develop key
26 metrics, for example vehicle miles, tonnage, and the like, that
27 could be used to measure expenditures by units, and which also
28 could be used to determine if the degree of subsidization by
29 Oahu to the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai of
30 transportation tax revenues and federal funding for airport,
31 harbor, and highway projects is derived through a thoughtful and
32 objective process or is the outcome of other factors such as
33 political negotiation; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
36 Bureau report its findings and recommendations to the
37 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
38 the Regular Session of 2011; and
39
40



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
 3 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Director of Transportation,
 4 and the Chair of the Task Force on Reinventing Government.
 5
 6
 7

OFFERED BY: Anna Mercedes K.

David Y. J.
AW

J
 Michelle D. Sudani
 Clara & Mishika
 Mike Gobb
 JLM
 M. A. M. K.

Will Eyo

D. J. J.
 Suzanne Ann Oakland
 JM