
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE
FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN INTERISLAND FERRY SYSTEM
SIMILAR TO THE FERRY SYSTEMS OPERATED BY WASHINGTON STATE
AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

1 WHEREAS, unlike other states, Hawaii does not enjoy the
2 benefit of being linked to other states, cities, or towns via
3 the federal interstate highway system or a network of
4 interconnected state and local highways; and

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6 WHEREAS, air transportation is currently the only efficient
7 means of travel between Hawaii's major islands; and

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9 WHEREAS, an interisland ferry system can serve as an
10 efficient alternative for transporting passengers and cargo; and

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12 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries, which is part of the
13 Washington State Department of Transportation, operates the
14 largest ferry system in the United States; and

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16 WHEREAS, with twenty-two ferries traversing the Puget Sound
17 and its inland waterways, Washington State Ferries serves as a
18 marine highway for commercial users, tourists, and daily
19 commuters; and

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21 WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries employs approximately
22 eighteen hundred people and is Washington's most popular tourist
23 attraction; and

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25 WHEREAS, other jurisdictions with successful ferry systems
26 include Alaska, New Zealand, and Australia/Tasmania; now,
27 therefore,

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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
31 that the Department of Transportation is requested to study the
32 feasibility of establishing an interisland ferry system similar



1 to the ferry systems operated by Washington State and other
2 jurisdictions; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
5 Transportation is requested to emphasize compliance of an
6 interisland ferry system with the State's environmental
7 protection laws, including chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
8 and

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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
11 Transportation is requested to identify appropriate routes and
12 harbors for an interisland ferry system; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
15 Transportation is requested to consider:

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17 (1) Potential costs and revenues of an interisland ferry
18 system;

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20 (2) Financing options for an interisland ferry system,
21 including the establishment of rates or fees to
22 address operating costs; and

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24 (3) Parameters of an interisland ferry system, including
25 vessel design and speed, passenger capacity, cargo
26 capacity, automobile capacity, and compatibility with
27 harbor infrastructure; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
30 Transportation is requested to report its findings and
31 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
32 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
33 the Regular Session of 2016; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
36 Bureau assist the Department of Transportation in the
37 preparation of its report to the Legislature on findings and
38 recommendations, including any proposed legislation; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and
42 Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

