

MAR 13 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY AND COST OF CONSTRUCTING A SMALL COMMERCIAL BOAT HARBOR AND SMALL COMMERCIAL AIRPORT IN SOUTH PUNA.

1 WHEREAS, Puna, on the Island of Hawaii, is an incredibly
2 large district that is approximately the same size as the island
3 of Kauai; and

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5 WHEREAS, Puna has the fastest growing population in the
6 County of Hawaii; and

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8 WHEREAS, Puna, located near the Hawaii Volcanoes National
9 Park, is a popular tourist attraction and destination for
10 ecotourism and personal development opportunities; and

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12 WHEREAS, many people in Puna will be cut off from supplies
13 and services as a result of the lava threatening to cross
14 Highway 130; and

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16 WHEREAS, in the Puna area, there are very few places to
17 access the coast safely due to the jagged cliffs, and road
18 infrastructure cannot be developed due to the extensive network
19 of lava tubes; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Puna coast has the Pohoiki boat ramp, however,
22 the ramp is not large enough to support commercial activity; and

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24 WHEREAS, Hilo Harbor is the closest commercial harbor to
25 Puna; and

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27 WHEREAS, the closest commercial airport to Puna is Hilo
28 Airport, a roundtrip that takes approximately six to eight hours
29 to complete; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Harbors Division,
32 is responsible for the planning, design, construction,
33 operation, and maintenance of state facilities for all modes of
34 water transportation; and



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WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation Airports Division, is responsible for the development, management, and maintenance of the State's global air transportation organization; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, that the Department of Transportation is requested to conduct a study regarding the feasibility and cost of constructing a small commercial boat harbor and small commercial airport in south Puna; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation.

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