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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES, AND HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CREATE A TRAFFIC CRISIS PLANNING AND MITIGATION COORDINATING GROUP.

1 WHEREAS, it is inevitable that vehicle accidents, fallen  
2 trees, water main breaks, and other unexpected events will occur  
3 and impede traffic; and  
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5 WHEREAS, traffic congestion can rise beyond the level of  
6 minor and temporary inconvenience when traffic is brought to a  
7 complete standstill and continues for hours or days; and  
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9 WHEREAS, several state and county agencies are often  
10 required to be included to mitigate and resolve the problem; and  
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12 WHEREAS, it is evident that coordination between and among  
13 the state and county agencies is initiated only after a traffic  
14 emergency occurs, and often not in a very timely manner; and  
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16 WHEREAS, mitigation of the worst traffic issues arising  
17 from an unexpected event usually takes hours if not days; and  
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19 WHEREAS, even when there is ample forewarning of traffic  
20 issues for planned roadwork, traffic mitigation can take many  
21 days after work begins as state and county agencies make  
22 adjustments to the original traffic control plan; and  
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24 WHEREAS, there seems to be no central agency that plans for  
25 traffic issues and coordinates the mitigation efforts to prevent  
26 and ease the worst traffic congestion and debriefs after events  
27 to take away lessons learned; now, therefore,  
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,  
31 that the State Department of Transportation, City and County of  
32 Honolulu Department of Transportation Services, and Honolulu  
33 Police Department are requested to create a Traffic Crisis  
34 Planning and Mitigation Coordinating Group; and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traffic Crisis Planning and  
3 Mitigation Coordinating Group appoint a Traffic Crisis  
4 Coordinator to act as the administrator of the group and who  
5 will:

- 6  
7 (1) Study the latest and the best practices in traffic  
8 control and mitigation;  
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10 (2) Coordinate the efforts of all agencies involved during  
11 a traffic emergency, as does the County of Hawaii  
12 Civil Defense during a tsunami warning or an impending  
13 hurricane;  
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15 (3) Debrief with the Traffic Crisis Planning and  
16 Mitigation Coordinating Group for lessons learned  
17 after dealing with a traffic event; and  
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19 (4) Provide a public report to the media upon a request  
20 from a state legislator or City Council member whose  
21 district was affected by the traffic event; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traffic Crisis Planning and  
24 Mitigation Coordinating Group hire a traffic engineer who can  
25 study the roadways and traffic lights to determine how  
26 bottlenecks and choke points can be eased or avoided when a  
27 traffic emergency occurs, including but not limited to the  
28 following solutions: contraflow lanes, adjusting the timing of  
29 traffic lights, putting specially trained police officers at  
30 intersections, quickly communicating events to the public,  
31 placing signage along the roadways, and training additional  
32 personnel, other than Honolulu Police Department personnel, to  
33 direct traffic; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traffic Crisis Planning and  
36 Mitigation Coordinating Group study areas where there are  
37 minimal alternative routes, such as Farrington Highway on the  
38 Leeward Coast, Kamehameha Highway on the North Shore and  
39 Windward Oahu, and Kalaniana'ole Highway between Wai'alea and  
40 Waimanalo; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of  
 2 Transportation, City and County of Honolulu Department of  
 3 Transportation Services, and Honolulu Police Department submit a  
 4 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
 5 convening of each regular session detailing work conducted by  
 6 and any findings related to the work of the Traffic Crisis  
 7 Planning and Mitigation Coordinating Group; and

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 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 10 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of  
 11 Transportation, Director of the City and County of Honolulu  
 12 Department of Transportation Services, and Chief of Police of  
 13 the Honolulu Police Department.  
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 15  
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OFFERED BY:

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