HOUSE RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE U.S. ARMY AND U.S. NAVY TO NOMINATE KOLEKOLE PASS TO THE THEATER ENGINEER EFFECTS BOARD TO BE REPAIRED FOR USE BY THE MILITARY AND AS AN EVACUATION ROUTE IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY OR NATURAL DISASTER ON THE LEEWARD COAST.

WHEREAS, the only way into and out of the communities on the Waianae Coast is through Farrington Highway, which has been closed numerous times in the recent years because of accidents, severe weather, and other emergency conditions; and

WHEREAS, Kolekole Pass is the only passage through the Waianae mountain range, connecting the Leeward Coast with central Oahu; and

WHEREAS, Kolekole Pass is presently closed to civilian traffic; and

WHEREAS, since 2001 the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Hawaii Department of Civil Defense to open Kolekole Pass to civilian traffic during an emergency or natural disaster as an alternative route for evacuating residents of the Leeward Coast; and

WHEREAS, the Kolekole Pass was used as an alternative route four times between 2002 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, in December 2008, heavy rains caused rockslides and severely undercut a hillside below the roadway and, as a result, at least one section of Kolekole Pass is limited to single-lane traffic; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Research Bureau conducted a study in 2010 regarding the feasibility of using Kolekole Pass as an...
alternative civilian route for emergency situations in which the need for repairs were identified; and

WHEREAS, the study reported the U.S. Navy to be responsible for the repair of Kolekole Pass, as it owns the part of the road that is currently in disrepair, and that the U.S. Navy was looking for funding for those repairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Joint Civil-Military Engineer Board, in Hawaii known as the Theater Engineer Effects Board, recommends policies, procedures, priorities and overall direction for civil-military construction and engineering requirements in the theater, and evaluates and prioritizes engineer resources; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, that the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy are encouraged to nominate Kolekole Pass to the Theater Engineer Effects Board for repairs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, the Commanding General of the United States Army Pacific, the Commander of the United States Pacific Command, and the Hawaii Department of Defense, Civil Defense Division.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR - 9 2018