REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF USING RECYCLED PLASTIC TO REPAIR ROADWAYS.

WHEREAS, in the 2019 Report Card for Hawai’i’s Infrastructure, the Hawai’i Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) graded eleven categories of the State’s infrastructure, resulting in an overall average grade of D+; and

WHEREAS, the ASCE noted that Hawaii’s roadways are among the most congested in the nation, and that there will be $23,000,000 transportation infrastructure funding gap over the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS, numerous initiatives, including a startup in the United Kingdom and the Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability at the University of Texas at Arlington, have developed techniques for using recycled plastics to repair roadways; and

WHEREAS, multiple states, including Texas, Iowa, and Missouri, have already begun using recycled plastic in some highway repair projects; and

WHEREAS, using recycled plastic products in roadway repair projects prevents plastic waste from going into a landfill and presents an opportunity to use bitumen efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the December 2009 County of Hawaii Integrated Resources and Solid Waste Management Update: The Path to Zero Waste indicates that a significant amount of glass is crushed for use in construction projects within the County of Hawaii, such as using glasscrete in county Solid Waste Division projects and crushed glass for backfill behind retaining walls, and that glass is also shipped to the United States mainland or Asia for remanufacturing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the Department of Transportation is requested to study the
feasibility of using recycled plastic to fix roadways in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation is requested to submit a report of 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 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and Highways Administrator.

OFFERED BY:

D.K. [Signature]

[Signatures]

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