

MAR 06 2020

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO DESIGN, BUILD, AND OPERATE AN UNDERWATER TUNNEL TO PROVIDE A MORE DIRECT CONNECTION FOR VEHICLE TRAFFIC BETWEEN EWA AND DOWNTOWN HONOLULU, ALONG WITH THE EXPANSION OF ROADWAYS AS NECESSARY TO MAXIMIZE USE OF THE TUNNEL.

1 WHEREAS, the coming decades will bring tens of thousands of  
2 new homes to the Leeward Coast and nearby areas of West Oahu;  
3 and

4  
5 WHEREAS, traffic experts predict that vehicular congestion  
6 will double or triple as a result of the growth in population;  
7 and

8  
9 WHEREAS, completion of Honolulu's rail transit project,  
10 potential implementation of toll roads, and other traffic  
11 mitigation efforts may be helpful but will not be enough to  
12 provide the additional transportation capacity for West Oahu  
13 residents; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, an underwater tunnel constructed at an appropriate  
16 location would provide residents of the Leeward Coast with a  
17 much more direct route to downtown Honolulu, reduce travel time,  
18 and save transportation expenses; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, if invited to participate in the planning, it is  
21 believed that the United States Navy would not oppose the  
22 construction of an underwater tunnel because naval vessels  
23 commonly traverse underwater tunnels on the East Coast of the  
24 United States and throughout the world; now, therefore,

25  
26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
27 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the  
28 Department of Transportation is requested to conduct a study on  
29 the feasibility of a public-private partnership to design,  
30 build, and operate an underwater tunnel to provide a more direct  
31 connection for vehicle traffic between Ewa and Downtown



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1 Honolulu, along with the expansion of roadways as necessary to  
2 maximize use of the tunnel; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include estimates on  
5 appropriate toll fees for use of the tunnel if a tunnel is  
6 feasible; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
9 Transportation is requested to submit the study to the  
10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the Regular  
11 Session of 2022; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation and  
15 Chief of Naval Operations.

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OFFERED BY:

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Kal Nuh

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