

MAR 12 2021

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INITIATE THREE
INNOVATIVE PILOT PROJECTS OF MEANINGFUL SCALE TO MODERNIZE
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

1 WHEREAS, utilizing public transportation, biking, walking,
2 and living close to work or school instead of owning or leasing
3 a car can significantly reduce the cost of transportation, cost
4 of living, and measurably improve public health; and
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6 WHEREAS, many underserved communities in Hawaii have no
7 safe biking or walking transportation infrastructure, leaving
8 residents forced to pay a higher cost of transportation to own a
9 car, even when they live close to work or school, with fewer
10 options to improve their quality of life; and
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12 WHEREAS, the way people use transportation in the State is
13 already rapidly changing, for example the number of licensed
14 drivers in the State between the ages of fifteen and nineteen
15 has plummeted nearly forty percent in the last twenty-five
16 years, and electric bicycles have made longer distance bicycle
17 commuting more popular; and
18

19 WHEREAS, these changes are due, in part, to increased cost
20 of living and transportation expenses such as buying or leasing
21 a car, which also includes auto insurance premiums, fuel costs,
22 and vehicle maintenance, which make owning a car an expensive
23 means of transportation as reflected in a recent report by the
24 American Automobile Association who noted that, on average,
25 these additional expenses cost each car owner \$8,849 per year;
26 and
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28 WHEREAS, in the State and around the country, inequitable
29 investments into infrastructure over many decades has
30 exacerbated cost and health disparities among different
31 communities, with low-income areas typically having less access
32 to bike lanes, sidewalks, and safe forms of cheaper



1 transportation, leaving low-income households in auto-centric
2 communities more likely to fall into poverty; and
3

4 WHEREAS, one direct outcome of this problem is that drivers
5 are more likely to strike and kill pedestrians in low-income
6 neighborhoods than in high-income neighborhoods due to a lack of
7 safe walking and biking infrastructure; and
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9 WHEREAS, Hawaii should modernize ground transportation
10 infrastructure by incorporating safer, protected, walking and
11 biking infrastructure, moving away from auto-centric policies,
12 and address infrastructure inequalities in underserved
13 communities to help reduce the cost of living, improve the
14 quality of life for local residents, and stimulate the economy;
15 now, therefore,
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
20 Transportation is requested to prioritize and execute three
21 pilot projects of meaningful scale demonstrating innovative new
22 ways to improve safety, reduce the cost of transportation for
23 local residents, and improve quality of life in underserved
24 communities, with a particular focus on those that may include
25 public housing or Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
26 beneficiaries; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
29 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
30 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce
31 transportation costs between an area of current or future high
32 density and the downtown urban core, providing a protected
33 highway for bicycle and pedestrian commuters without
34 intersecting vehicular traffic or other impediments, similar to
35 the safe and direct commutes made possible by the New York City
36 High Line for pedestrians, or the Xiamen Bicycle Skyway for
37 bicycle commuters; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
40 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
41 maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle commuting and reduce
42 transportation costs for students commuting to school, providing



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1 protected bicycle and pedestrian routes to schools focusing on
2 an area that serves as many schools as possible, and may partner
3 with a county in doing so; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
6 Transportation is requested to prioritize one project that will
7 maximize safe and protected active health exercise pathways
8 serving a high-density area, and may partner with a county in
9 doing so; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
13 Director of Transportation.
14
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16

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Lee', written over a horizontal line.