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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT INNOVATIVE POLICIES TO  
IMPROVE TRANSIT AND REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

1 WHEREAS, traffic congestion is a major issue that costs the  
2 State millions of dollars annually and negatively contributes to  
3 the health and welfare of residents; and

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5 WHEREAS, Honolulu consistently ranks among the worst cities  
6 nationally for traffic congestion; and

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8 WHEREAS, the average commuter on Oahu spends sixty-four  
9 hours each year sitting in traffic congestion; and

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11 WHEREAS, the Department of Business, Economic Development,  
12 and Tourism estimates the cost of traffic congestion, including  
13 time lost and the excess fuel consumed sitting in traffic, at  
14 more than \$753,000,000 annually; and

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16 WHEREAS, there are currently more than 1,275,000 motor  
17 vehicles registered in the State, including cars, trucks,  
18 motorcycles, and scooters; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, as of December 2019, there are only 944,159  
21 residents with a valid driver's license, which means there are  
22 approximately 330,841 more vehicles than drivers in the State;  
23 and

24  
25 WHEREAS, there are only 4,476 miles of roads, paved and  
26 unpaved, in the State; and

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28 WHEREAS, the State spends on average \$82,000,000 annually  
29 on road repairs; and

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31 WHEREAS, between 1995 and 2017 Oahu added one hundred  
32 ninety miles of new roadways and during that same time period



1 Oahu added 190,000 more registered vehicles while the population  
2 on Oahu only grew by approximately twelve percent; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, between 1993 and 2017, the nation's one hundred  
5 largest urbanized areas added 30,511 new freeway lane-miles, an  
6 increase of forty-two percent, and over that same time period  
7 the population in those regions increased by thirty-two percent  
8 while traffic delays and congestion exploded by one hundred  
9 forty-four percent, proving that "widening the freeways" won't  
10 solve the traffic problems in the State; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, a new focus on affordable housing development will  
13 add tens of thousands of commuters to the roads in the years to  
14 come; and

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16 WHEREAS, the only effective way of improving transit and  
17 reducing traffic in the State is to shift away from spending  
18 limited resources on adding lane miles for vehicles and instead  
19 investing in alternative transit infrastructure and adopting  
20 policies that reduce the number of vehicles on the roads; now,  
21 therefore,

22  
23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
24 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
25 House of Representatives concurring, that the State is  
26 encouraged to consider and adopt innovative policies to invest  
27 in alternative transit infrastructure and reduce the number of  
28 vehicles on the road; and

29  
30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
31 Transportation is requested to convene a working group to  
32 examine and consider innovative policies to invest in  
33 alternative transit infrastructure and reduce the number of  
34 vehicles on the road; and

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised  
37 of the following members, or their designees:

- 38  
39 (1) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on  
40 Transportation, who should serve as co-chair of the  
41 working group;  
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- 1           (2) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
2           Standing Committee on Transportation, who should serve  
3           as co-chair of the working group;
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- 5           (3) The Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on  
6           Housing;
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- 8           (4) The Chairperson of the House of Representatives  
9           Standing Committee on Housing;
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- 11          (5) The Director of Transportation;
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- 13          (6) The Chief Energy Officer;
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- 15          (7) A representative of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers  
16          Association;
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- 18          (8) A representative of the Ulupono Initiative;
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- 20          (9) A representative of the Hawaii Bicycling League; and
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- 22          (10) Any other members as may be necessary, as invited by  
23          the co-chairs; and
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25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the working group  
26           serve without compensation; and

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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested  
29           to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,  
30           including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later  
31           than twenty days prior to the Regular Session of 2022; and

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33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34           Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director  
35           of Transportation, Chief Energy Officer, President of Ulupono  
36           Initiative, President of the Hawaii Automobile Dealers  
37           Association, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Bicycling  
38           League.

