

MAR 12 2021

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EVALUATE KUAKINI HIGHWAY AND QUEEN KAAHUMANU HIGHWAY BETWEEN HENRY STREET AND KAMEHAMEHA III ROAD ON HAWAI'I ISLAND AND CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING TRAFFIC REDUCTION BY WIDENING THE HIGHWAY OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE MEANS.

1           WHEREAS, the island of Hawai'i is experiencing growth in  
2 population and as a result, an increase in difficulties  
3 generated by a significant growth in traffic; and  
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5           WHEREAS, vehicle traffic on Kuakini Highway between Lako  
6 Street and Kamehameha III Road on Hawai'i island typically causes  
7 traffic jams lasting several consecutive hours in the mornings  
8 and evenings; and  
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10           WHEREAS, North Kona's population spiked by almost four  
11 thousand people to nearly forty-two thousand in total from 2010  
12 through 2016, causing additional traffic on Kuakini Highway and  
13 Queen Kaahumanu Highway; and  
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15           WHEREAS, relieving the bottleneck where the Queen Kaahumanu  
16 and Kuakini Highways merge is necessary for the community's  
17 safety; and  
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19           WHEREAS, S.B. No. 1011, Regular Session of 2021, proposes  
20 to appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation to  
21 widen Queen Kaahumanu Highway and Kuakini Highway; and  
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23           WHEREAS, the Senate Committee on Transportation found that  
24 the rapidly growing population in west Hawai'i has contributed to  
25 consistent vehicle traffic on Queen Kaahumanu Highway and  
26 Kuakini Highway; and  
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1           WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation initiated a study  
2 that determined that widening Kuakini Highway from two to four  
3 lanes would require land acquisitions from over one hundred  
4 fifty property owners and funding in excess of \$150,000,000; and  
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6           WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation terminated the  
7 Kuakini Highway widening study due to the project's  
8 infeasibility; and  
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10          WHEREAS, easing traffic at one of Kona's most frustrating  
11 pinch points on Kuakini Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway  
12 between Henry Street and Kamehameha III Road is in the best  
13 safety and public welfare interests of the State; now,  
14 therefore,  
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16          BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, the  
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
19 Transportation is requested to evaluate Kuakini Highway and  
20 Queen Kaahumanu Highway between Henry Street and Kamehameha III  
21 Road on Hawai'i island and conduct a feasibility study regarding  
22 traffic reduction by widening the highway or other alternative  
23 means; and  
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25          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in exploring other alternative  
26 means of traffic reduction, the Department of Transportation is  
27 requested to consider repainting traffic lanes from fourteen  
28 feet to ten feet; and  
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30          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
31 Transportation is urged to place on its priority list the  
32 Kuakini Highway and Queen Kaahumanu Highway project under the  
33 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and provide a  
34 report on how to reclassify the project as a safety project,  
35 including any proposed legislation and recommendations; and  
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37          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
38 Transportation is requested to submit its report to the  
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
40 the Regular Session of 2022; and  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of  
3 Transportation and Mayor of the County of Hawai'i.

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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'DK' followed by a stylized flourish, is written over a horizontal line.