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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ANALYZE THE WAIANAE COAST EMERGENCY ACCESS ROAD SYSTEM AND WHETHER THESE ROADS CAN BE USED AS A SECONDARY ACCESS ROAD TO THE WAIANAE COAST ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

1           WHEREAS, Farrington Highway is the main route of travel for  
2 communities of the Leeward Coast of Oahu and is the only public  
3 highway that leads into and out of the region; and  
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5           WHEREAS, as the population along the Leeward Coast  
6 continues to increase, and with only one route into and out of  
7 the area, traffic conditions continue to worsen and frustrated  
8 Leeward motorists are caught in gridlock traffic conditions on a  
9 daily basis; and  
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11           WHEREAS, Farrington Highway has experienced lane closures  
12 or complete shutdowns on numerous occasions due to traffic  
13 accidents, severe weather, and other emergency conditions; and  
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15           WHEREAS, for over a decade, numerous proposals to find a  
16 solution to the foregoing problem have been made, including the  
17 construction of a secondary access road into the Waianae area  
18 parallel to Farrington Highway, the development of an emergency  
19 access route into and out of the Waianae area using existing  
20 infrastructure, increasing the capacity of Farrington Highway,  
21 and construction of a mauka roadway through the Waianae mountain  
22 range to connect the Leeward Coast with Central Oahu; and  
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24           WHEREAS, despite these proposals, no permanent solution has  
25 been initiated; and  
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27           WHEREAS, in a coordinated effort between numerous  
28 departments and agencies, plans have been put in place to use



1 existing roads as an emergency access and bypass route into the  
2 Waianae area during emergency highway closures or other  
3 emergency situations; and  
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5 WHEREAS, accordingly, the system of roads, known as the  
6 Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System (WCEAR), consists of  
7 gated roads that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of  
8 Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu that can  
9 be opened when it is deemed necessary or when requested by the  
10 Honolulu Police Department; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, while use of WCEAR has provided needed relief  
13 during recent emergency situations, issues regarding the timely  
14 opening of these roads still remain, including the necessity of  
15 having the gates to the roads unlocked by an individual from the  
16 Department of Emergency Management; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, questions remain as to the actual ownership and  
19 jurisdiction of the WCEAR System roads and whether WCEAR System  
20 road conditions meet current road building standards; and  
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that there is a critical  
23 need for an alternate route to the Waianae Coast to alleviate  
24 aforestated circumstances; now, therefore,  
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
27 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
28 of 2017, that the Department of Transportation, in conjunction  
29 with the Department of Transportation Services and Department of  
30 Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu, and the  
31 Honolulu Police Department, is urged to conduct an analysis of  
32 roads in the Waianae Coast Emergency Access Road System to:  
33

- 34 (1) Determine the logistical challenges of opening WCEAR  
35 System roads on a permanent basis;  
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- 37 (2) Review and consider the jurisdictional issues that  
38 need to be addressed to allow the use of WCEAR System  
39 roads on a permanent basis;



- 1 (3) Determine any improvements necessary to bring WCEAR
- 2 System roads in line with current road building
- 3 standards, including cost estimates for the
- 4 improvements;
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- 6 (4) Determine the overall benefits of and the actions
- 7 necessary to effectuate the opening of WCEAR System
- 8 roads only during peak traffic times versus
- 9 permanently opening these roads, including effects in
- 10 reducing travel times; and
- 11
- 12 (5) Consider any other pertinent issues that may be
- 13 involved in the use of WCEAR System roads as an
- 14 alternative means of access to and from the Leeward
- 15 Coast; and
- 16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of  
 18 Transportation submit a report of its findings and  
 19 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 20 Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the  
 21 Regular Session of 2018; and

22  
 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation,  
 25 Director of the Department of Transportation Services of the  
 26 City and County of Honolulu, Director of the Department of  
 27 Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu, and  
 28 Acting Honolulu Police Chief.

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 31 Calvin K. Amy OFFERED BY: Calvin K. Amy  
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MAR 10 2017

