
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY REGARDING
THE CRITICAL CONDITION OF OAHU'S TRAFFIC, AND REQUESTING
THE ASSISTANCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE IMMEDIATE
ASSISTING ACTION TO RESOLVE THE PRESENT CRISIS.

1 WHEREAS, as evidenced by the ancient saying of "While
2 people are saying peace and safety, destruction will come on
3 them suddenly" our human history has demonstrated time and time
4 again that improper planning, poor protocols, defective systems,
5 a failure of imagination and an inability for persons in
6 positions of leadership and key responsibilities to adapt to
7 change or recognize limitations has resulted in devastating
8 disasters and often horrific moments in human history; and
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10 WHEREAS, unforeseen natural disasters and actions by
11 hostile individuals or entities often expose or exploit our
12 weaknesses in the absolute worst way possible, such as the
13 terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the effects of
14 Hurricane Katrina on the City of New Orleans, or the 2006 Hawaii
15 Earthquake, all of which were disasters whose detrimental
16 effects could have been mitigated or avoided altogether if
17 preventative measures had been taken; and
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19 WHEREAS, similarly, the present lack of sufficient
20 transportation infrastructure on the Island of Oahu, State of
21 Hawaii, is overwhelmingly obvious by the daily excesses of
22 traffic congestion in which thousands of vehicles are massed on
23 our roads and freeways, and likewise painfully apparent by the
24 total shutdown of transportation and many critical island
25 functions during events - either natural or man-influenced -
26 that damage our roadways or obstruct them, often paralyzing
27 whole regions and large populations for hours; and
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29 WHEREAS, in times of natural disasters and enemy action,
30 not only is regularly functioning infrastructure critical, but



1 redundant and back-up infrastructure is extremely necessary so
2 as to mitigate the effects of destruction to existing assets;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, as painfully demonstrated by the experience of
6 December 7, 1941, the State of Hawaii is America's lead
7 battleground for conflicts in the Pacific Ocean, making the
8 Hawaiian Islands a bastion of freedom that must constantly be
9 guarded with a higher level of security and preparedness than
10 the other contiguous states of the Union; and
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12 WHEREAS, alternative roads presently do not exist capable
13 of meeting an emergency demand of large numbers of military or
14 rescue vehicles amidst enemy action or large scale disaster, and
15 our current roads are overly burdened, with a level of service
16 "F" regarding peacetime traffic flow on H-1; and
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18 WHEREAS, communities such as Ewa which are located in areas
19 already difficult to access during times of peak traffic, may
20 suffer immensely in the event of disaster or enemy action,
21 depriving them of critical access to first responders or
22 evacuation capability; and
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24 WHEREAS, the precedent to declare a state of emergency
25 based on the pall of presently intolerable situations was
26 evidenced as recently as April 11, 2007 when Governor Linda
27 Lingle declared a state of emergency regarding the island of
28 Kauai's homeless population; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
31 Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
32 Session of 2008, the Senate concurring, that in light of these
33 rare and unusual threats which face our Islands, that this Body
34 urges the recognition from the Governor that a state of
35 emergency exists regarding the critical condition of Oahu's
36 traffic, and likewise requests the Federal government to
37 immediately assist to resolve the present crisis before such
38 disasters and enemy attacks can occur; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that duly certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
42 Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland
43 Security, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of
44 Transportation, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the



1 Vice President of the United States of America, and the
2 President of the United States of America.

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OFFERED BY: *Fide T. P. Calomita-Arakawa*

[Handwritten Signature]

MAR 12 2008

