



## RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY TO IMPOSE A COUNTY SURCHARGE TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX FOR HIGHWAY AND BIKEWAY CONSTRUCTION.

WHEREAS, statewide, while there is a pressing demand for the repair of current highways and bikeways and construction of new county highways and bikeways, counties currently do not have enough revenue to fund all such necessary construction; and

WHEREAS, alternative means to fund highway and bikeway projects are needed; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the legislature passed Act 247 (codified as HRS Sections 46-16.8 and 237-8.6) which authorized counties to levy a half percent surcharge on the State General Excise Tax to fund public transportation with the limitation that the surcharge for counties with a population of over 500,000 could not be used to build or repair highways or bicycle paths; and

WHEREAS, Act 247 (2005) also required counties to adopt an ordinance by December 31, 2005, in order to levy the surcharge and only the City and County of Honolulu did so; and

WHEREAS, Act 247 has allowed the City and County of Honolulu to fund a rail transit system, with approximately \$150 million per year from the county; and

WHEREAS, counties should be given the opportunity to enact a surcharge on the State General Excise Tax for the purposes of building or repairing highways and bikeways; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Hawaii State Legislature and the Governor to pass and approve legislation that would authorize the counties to enact a county surcharge of a half percent to the State General Excise Tax to be used for highway and bikeway construction; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the mayors of Kauai, Maui, Hawaii, and the City and County of Honolulu.

INTRODUCED BY:

TOM BERG

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**SEP 08 2011**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers