RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS BY THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I, COUNTY OF KAUA‘I, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPROVE BICYCLE SAFETY IN THE COUNTY OF KAUA‘I

WHEREAS, a large number of bicyclists commute, exercise, and ride for recreation on the island of Kaua‘i; and

WHEREAS, bicycling is an activity with many benefits for individuals and the community, including:

- Provides a convenient, effective, and alternative form of transportation that helps reduce traffic congestion and parking requirements;
- Supports and enhances physical health in an outdoor environment through exercise and recreation;
- Represents an environmentally friendly activity that does not rely on the consumption of fossil fuels and produces no pollution. Every bicycle on the road represents one less automobile adding to pollution emissions; and

WHEREAS, despite the advantage of comfortable year-round weather in Hawai‘i, many bicyclists have been discouraged rather than encouraged from riding because of perceptions that Kaua‘i’s roadways are not a friendly and safe place to ride; and

WHEREAS, these perceptions are supported by many factors, including an ever increasing number of vehicles on Kaua‘i’s roadways that have made bicycling riskier and bicycle accidents more likely, and inadequate and poorly-maintained roadways, bikeways, and bike paths; and

WHEREAS, implementing action 7.3.2 of the Kaua‘i General Plan states the following policy:

“Support funding to develop Kaua‘i’s bikeway system to provide for alternative means of transportation, recreation, and visitor activities (economic development); and
WHEREAS, goal four of the Hawai‘i 2050 Plan includes the following strategic action:

“Increase and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including multi-use pathways”; and

WHEREAS, areas that serve as liveable and walkable community models feature “bicycle friendly” facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to assure perpetual access to coastal and mauka recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, to date a number of Kaua‘i neighborhood associations have endorsed this bicycle safety resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that, in addition to the potential to become a bicycle friendly island community, there is a need to increase bicycle safety in all areas of Kaua‘i so that we can realize the goal of becoming a bicycle-friendly county; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI, STATE OF HAWAII, that it supports efforts by the State of Hawai‘i, County of Kaua‘i, and other stakeholders to improve bicycle safety in the County of Kaua‘i.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council urges the State and County to continue all efforts to improve conditions for safe bicycling, including but not limited to:

1. Developing new shared-use paths, bikeways, and bike routes within and connecting Kaua‘i’s communities;

2. Maintaining and improving all existing shared-use paths, bikeways, and bike routes on Kaua‘i, including re-striping roadways, improving signage placement, regularly trimming trees and bushes, and ensuring barrier-free and clean riding areas;

3. Implementing construction procedures that consider the needs of bicyclists, including seeking input from the bicycling community on major roadway projects; paving and striping road shoulders, placing construction signs, equipment, and opala bins outside of bicycling areas; providing detour bike lanes as necessary; and ensuring that traffic loop sensors can be triggered by bicyclists and are maintained when repaving roadways;

4. Enforcing existing traffic and parking laws;

5. Installing bicycle racks in all state and county parks;

6. Enhancing motorist education by emphasizing bicycle safety knowledge as part of the application process to successfully obtain and renew a vehicle driver’s license;
7. Continuing support for and funding of the Kaua'i Rotary Clubs' "Bike Ed" programs, which has been teaching Kaua'i fourth-graders to safely ride bicycles on our roadways;

8. Assisting non-profit organizations and others in implementing Bike and Walk "School Buses" under the Federal Safe Routes to School Program, whereby a group of students and accompanying adults walk or bike to go to and from school along designated safe routes; and

9. Enhancing bicyclist education by emphasizing bicycle safety knowledge at the point of sale as part of the process of obtaining a bicycle license.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Mayor Bill "Kaipo" Asing; Governor Linda Lingle; Senate President Colleen Hanabusa; Speaker of the House Calvin K.Y. Say; Senator Gary Hooser, Representative Hermina M. Morita, Representative Roland D. Sagum, III, Representative James Kunane Tokioka; Brennon Morioka, Acting Director of the State Department of Transportation; Gary Heu, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor; Donald Fujimoto, County Engineer; Ian Costa, Director of Planning; Kylan Dela Cruz, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation; Dileep G. Bal, M.D., Kaua'i District Health Officer, State Department of Health; Wayne H. Souza, Parks District Superintendent, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks; Thomas Noyes, Secretary, Kauai Path, Inc.; Mitchell S. Nakagawa, Executive Director, Hawai'i Bicycling League; and neighborhood associations.

INTRODUCED BY:

/s/TIM BYNUM

/s/RONALD KOUCHI