



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

News Release
Date: May 9, 2014

Media Contact: Thelma Dreyer, 586-6261

HAWAII ISLAND TO RECEIVE \$320,000 TO IMPROVE SADDLE ROAD AND HAWAII BELT ROAD

Honolulu – Senator Malama Solomon, District 4 – Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona, released the following statement following Governor Neil Abercrombie’s release of \$320,000 in capital improvement project funds for transportation improvements for Saddle Road and Hawaii Belt Road:

- \$270,000 for drainage improvements on Hawaii Belt Road near Hakalau Bridge
- \$50,000 for the design and land for a maintenance baseyard on Saddle Road

“These capital improvement projects increase the safety of our roads for our residents and improve their quality of life,” said Senator Malama Solomon.

“Our island residents increasingly rely on Saddle Road to connect the east and west sides of the island for work, school and leisure. Constructing a centrally-located maintenance baseyard on Saddle Road is necessary for workers to perform preventative maintenance along saddle road so that it remains in top operating condition for a long time. Ensuring that the newly improved the 47-mile long road remains safe is a top priority for our growing economy. This funding will ensure that the improvements made to the baseyard design will be efficient and useful.

“During periods of heavy rainfall common along the Hamakua Coast, runoff causes flash floods that cause dangerous road conditions. Increasing drainage on Hawaii Belt Road means roads will be safer and alleviate traffic congestion as roads stay open.”

###