

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1213 -08

Honolulu, Hawaii

March 19, 2008

RE: S.B. No. 2156
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred S.B. No. 2156, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE WEST MAUI TRANSPORTATION ACCESS PLAN,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the residents of and visitors to West Maui by establishing an informal, temporary West Maui Transportation Access Plan Working Group (Working Group) within the Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop an access plan that addresses road closures in West Maui.

Maui Land and Pineapple Company, Inc., and Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, testified in support of this bill. DOT supported the intent of this measure. The State Procurement Office did not support this bill.

Many rural areas around the State of Hawaii are accessible by a single roadway or highway. One of those areas, West Maui, is accessible only by one major highway. Closure of this highway can occur at a moment's notice due to incidents that do not rise to the level of a major emergency. In fact, over the last two years, the highway has been closed for extensive periods due to wildfires in the area. These closures have resulted in the residents of West Maui being effectively cut off from the rest of the island.

SB2156 HD1 HSCR TRN HMS 2008-2909



Your Committee understands the concerns raised by DOT that although its responsibility consists of maintaining the highway leading into West Maui, disaster planning is better accomplished by a county civil defense agency. Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Maui Civil Defense Agency, rather than DOT, to establish and coordinate the Working Group to develop an access plan that addresses road closures in West Maui; and
- (2) Establishing the County of Maui, rather than DOT, as the expending agency for the appropriated funds.

Technical, nonsubstantive amendments were also made for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2156, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2156, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation,



JOSEPH M. SOUKI, Chair



