

South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee
P.O. Box 383375
Waikoloa, HI 96738

February 21, 2008

Senator J. Kalani English, Chairman of the Transportation and International
Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 205
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for appointment of Brennon Morioka as Director of Department of
Transportation

Dear Senator English;

At the February 12, 2008 meeting of SKTSC, a motion was passed by the membership supporting Brennon Morioka's appointment as Director of Hawaii State Department of Transportation. Mr. Morioka's performance as Deputy Director of Highways gives him the experience and relationships with Hawaii Island officials and citizens to further improve transportation systems and safety in our opinion.

Frequent attendance at district traffic safety committee meetings and other community association meetings; and following up on citizens' requests and complaints has been appreciated and resulted in implementation of safety projects that improve quality of life for everyone. The Highway 190-Puanahulu guard rail and widening project and recent Kawaihae Harbor area traffic count studies are examples.

Mr. Morioka has followed the written recommendation of 200 South Kohala District citizens to prioritize the State Kawaihae Bypass Project. Through informational meetings he was able to reverse the consensus opposing the Waiaka Bridge Project. By addressing concerns and dispelling misinformation, Mr. Morioka now has wide spread community support of that project. This interaction with neighbor island citizens by State administrators has been rare in the past.

We hope that Mr. Morioka's skills and perseverance with the above projects and the current large Highway 19 Improvement Project will carry over to his management of DOT Harbors and Airports Divisions as Director of Department of Transportation. We applaud his recent efforts in regard to the Harbors Improvement Project. His efforts to develop a "Memorandum of Responsibility"

in regard to the neglected Kawaihae Harbor Road and harbor facilities should end decades of neglect and avoidance of responsibility by State agencies.

In summary, we feel Mr. Morioka is well qualified for the position of Director of Department of Transportation and has demonstrated his ability to listen to local community concerns, plan, fund, and timely construct traffic safety, modernization, and improvement projects to support the economy and quality of life in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Price-Chair South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee

CC: State Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
State Representative Cindy Evans
Councilman Pete Hoffmann
Brennon Morioka-DOT Highways Division
Stanley Tamura-District Engineer DOT Highways Division